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7, 2019

"WORSHIP: THE CROWN JEWEL"

(Introductory Message)

Intro ... This morning, in this brief communion meditation, it is my privilege and delight to introduce a brand-new series of messages.

For the past five years at least, every new series of messages that I have preached has been suggested by the one just completed.

This one is no exception.

The title of this new series is ...

"WORSHIP: THE CROWN JEWEL."

More than merely being '*suggested*' by the '*Apprehending Abba*' series it is virtually demanded by it. The new one is systemically linked to the former.

For the past eight months we have opened our hearts and minds to and focused our wills upon the fact that "*Knowing God*" that is, entering into a personal relationship with our Awesome Heavenly Abba is the very essence of Eternal Life. Jesus Himself said so.

29 distinctive aspects of our Heavenly Father's nature we have discovered in the Scripture. Each of them contributes to the personal relationship that He desires us to enjoy with Him.

These past months have been for us an awesome journey (as it were) into our Heavenly Abba's heart!

'*Coming to Know God*' - to know Him as He desires to be known - is indeed the greatest possible achievement and blessing in earthly life.

And the more we know God ... the more we come to actually '*Apprehend Abba*' ... the more we will find ourselves propelled (as it were) toward the realities contained in the series we launch today.

Here's our **Series Key Scripture** ...

OUR SERIES KEY SCRIPTURE ... John 4:24

(This is what ties this series in with our previous one.)

*"True Worshipers will **WORSHIP** the Father in **SPIRIT** and in **TRUTH** ... They are the kind of worshipers that the Father **SEEKS**."*

So, what does it mean '**To Worship**'?

We could certainly call this our Series **Key Definition**:

WORSHIP: to ascribe (to attribute) **ULTIMATE WORTH**
to something or someone.
(To bow before - To honor most highly)

In Psalm 29:2, we seek the Psalmist David urging us to do just that ...

*"**ASCRIBE** to the Lord the glory due His Name;
WORSHIP the Lord in the Splendor of His Holiness."*

Here now is ...

OUR SERIES KEY CONCEPT ...

(This is the reality this entire series is built around.)

*Our Heavenly Abba is actively **SEEKING WORSHIPERS** ...
A particular **KIND** of worshipers:*

The kind that are motivated and energized by the **SPIRIT**;
The kind that are informed and directed by the **TRUTH**.

*"**Motivated and energized by the Spirit**" ... that means that if we are **not** 'Keeping in Step with Pneuma' we can't do it!*

*"**Informed and directed by the Truth**" ... that means if we are making things up as we go along or if we are developing our worship in keeping with every new 'Spiritual Breakthrough' that comes along, we can't do it.*

In a word, this **key concept** is telling us that our Heavenly Father is actively seeking for those who will ...

'Worship Him in the way that He wants to be Worshipped.'

Hopefully this series of messages will help us do just that!

And now finally this morning in this introductory statement,
here is ...

OUR SERIES KEY DECLARATION ...

(This is what we will be discovering in the weeks to come.)

**"WORSHIP IS THE CROWN JEWEL
IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

We will discover that:

WORSHIP is the Crown Jewel in the **HEAVENLY REALMS**.

*"You are **worthy** our Lord and God to receive honor and
glory and power for You created all things and
by Your **Will** they ... have their being."
(Revelation 4:11)*

WORSHIP is the Crown Jewel in **CHRIST'S CHURCH**.

*" ... they raised their voices **together** in prayer to God.
'**Sovereign Lord,**' they said, 'You made the heaven and the
earth and everything in them. ... Stretch forth Your hand' ..."
(Acts 4:24 ... vs. 30a)*

WORSHIP is the Crown Jewel in the **BELIEVER'S LIFE**.

*"Be still and **know** that I am God ... I will be **exalted** in the
earth."
(Psalm 46:10)*

Final Thought ...

WORSHIP is at the very **HEART** of eternal life!