

Pastor Mark Mikels

September 1, 2019

WORSHIP: THE CROWN JEWEL"

"Worship Abba ... Receptively"

(Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 51:2,8; 1 Peter 5:10; Isaiah 40:31)

Intro ... I can't think of a better worship attitude to possess on a Firstfruits Sunday than the one we identify today.

TODAY'S KEY WORSHIP ATTITUDE ...

"Worship Abba ... **RECEPTIVELY!**"

RECEPTIVELY ... 'Anticipating **ALTERATION**
Rejoicing in the Father's **ATTENTION**
EMBRACING the Father's **DIRECTION.**

In a word ...

"Come into your Heavenly Abba's Presence **READY** to **RECEIVE!**"

THREE PETITIONS OF A RECEPTIVE WORSHIPPER ...

Note that all but one of the verses we consider this morning are from the Old Testament - especially from David who had come to 'Know God' as a boy and who wrote down many of his prayers as songs to be sung. The people loved them. From two of his most well-known, we receive instruction this morning.

David knew how to come to God **receptively** - He knew exactly what he needed to receive - things that he knew His Mighty God most desired to give. He asked for those things.

Consider with me this morning two of David's Heart-Felt Petitions:

* **"SEARCH me and REVEAL things about me to me."**

"Search me, O God, and know my heart ...

See if there is any offensive way in me."

(Psalm 139:23,24)

Do you ever stop to think how susceptible to 'Self-Deception' you are? How easily we 'overlook' the things about ourselves that are most in need of change - things that are completely out of keeping with the heart and mind and purposes of our Heavenly Father?

We need to receive **TRUTH** about ourselves.

A receptive worshipper asks the Father to **REVEAL** such truth.

Here's the **second** of David's petitions ...

* **"CLEANSE me and REPAIR things within me"**

*"Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin ...
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice."
(Psalm 51:2,8)*

Another place where you and I are susceptible to 'Self-Deception' is in our mistaken belief that we can 'Fix Things Ourselves' ... that we can 'Make Things Right' - that we only need God (or someone God is using) to 'Point Out To Us' our iniquities and sins (to use David's terms) and then we can 'Take it from there' ... that we can:

"Cleanse ourselves and Repair things within ourselves."

David learned the hard way that it just can't be done - that his own efforts to 'Make Things Better' just piled sin upon sin.

*"O God", he finally prayed (to use our words of the morning) ...
"(You) Cleanse me and repair things within me."*

Now that is a prayer that your Heavenly Father desires to hear and one that He answers every single time!

And then after praying that God would **REVEAL TRUTH** and **REPAIR DAMAGE**, the receptive worshipper prays:

* **"RESTORE me and RENEW me for the task."**

*(Our insights come from the Apostle Peter and
from the Prophet Isaiah)*

*"And the God of all grace ... will Himself restore you
and make you strong, firm and steadfast."
(1 Peter 5:10)*

*"Those who hope in (worship) the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles ..."
(Isaiah 40:31)*

Here is the end of the matter: Our Lavishly Loving, Magnificently Merciful, Unfailingly Faithful Abba Father always responds to the petitions of a truly receptive worshipper.

Peter says "He will Restore you" ... Isaiah says 'The Lord will renew their strength.' Our Abba Father hears and answers.

Final That ...

One who worships Abba **RECEPTIVELY** will
NEVER return from His Presence the same as he **CAME**.
He will not return **EMPTY-HANDED!**