

## Shema Worship – All Your Heart

### \*\*Bumper Video –

Welcome to week 1 of our new sermon series Shema Worship.

Worship is central to a life of faith. In fact **Worship is central to life** itself. No matter what your belief system... be you religious, non-religious, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, be you agnostic or atheist... no matter how you classify yourself – this statement is true... You are going to worship something or someone.

Some thing or someone is going to be the focus of your life... They will be the focus of your heart, your mind, and your strength. This is worship.

Worship is central to life.

Psalm 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.(NIV)

Genesis 2:7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.(NIV)

We know that this breath came from God our creator. He created us specifically to worship. And we are either going to create THE CREATOR or some CREATED THING.

He is the only UNCREATED THING...

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.(NIV)

You will either worship God who is LIFE... He isn't just alive HE IS LIFE and all life comes from Him... You either worship Him or you worship something or someone that has been given life.

So the question isn't if you will worship... The question is who or what you will worship.

An important question I want us to ask ourselves today is "Who or what am I worshipping? Who or what is the object of my worship?"

Don't take this question lightly. There have been times in my life as a Christian where I have been worshipping created things above the Creator... Times when the focus of my heart mind & strength were on the wrong thing.

In Mark 12 one of the teachers of the law had asked Jesus of all the commandments, which is the most important. Jesus'

answer was to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, & with all your strength.

**Worship is central to life!** According to Jesus, to love God is the most important thing we will ever do, now & for all eternity. It is the greatest command to Love God with all your Heart Mind Strength.

**all your heart** – What do you think it looks like to Love the Lord with all your heart? Text us at 214 856 0550

When Jesus was talking about the greatest commandment He was quoting from the Old Testament, specifically the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 10 commandments. This command and passage found in Deuteronomy 6 is known as the SHEMA.

We are going to take a moment to teach the context of the

**Shema.**

When we reference a scripture or passage we will usually site where it is found....

You know... John 3:16, Psalm 23, Romans 8:28, Deuteronomy 6:4

But the original readers of scripture had no Chapters or Verses. Chapters were added in the 12<sup>th</sup> century with the Latin Vulgate & verses in the 16<sup>th</sup> century with the Geneva translation.

Sometimes we reference a scripture or passage by quoting the first part but not necessarily all....

For God so loved the World, The Lord is my shepherd, In the beginning was the Word

We don't always take the time to quote the whole passage because the quotation isn't the point... The understanding is the point... and when we are talking with knowledgeable people we try to make reference to save time. You've done this...

Hebrew culture didn't have Chapter & Verses... And they went a step further from quoting the beginning phrase of a passage...

They would often say 1 word and it would reference an entire setting of scripture.

The **Shema** is the best known example of this. Shema is Hebrew, meaning "Hear"

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.(NIV)

When someone referenced the Shema, every Hebrew knew what they meant. They weren't just referencing a verse but the entire passage of scripture that talked about the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 10 commandments.

The Shema is the definition of Worship. Any discussion on Worship should begin with the Shema.

## 1 2 Shema

It declares there is 1 Lord, 1 God. There is 1 object of our worship

It declares that we should LOVE this 1 God with ALL THAT WE ARE.

#1 This marks the 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Bible where we are told to Love God. Think of all that happens before Deuteronomy 6... Creation, The Garden where God walked with Adam and Eve, The Flood where God saves Noah & His family, Abraham where God makes an everlasting covenant & provides a son, God striking down Egypt and freeing all of Israel from Slavery.... Through all of this God hasn't even suggested that we should Love Him. The Shema is the original command to LOVE GOD.

You love God?

#2 The Shema tells us how to love God. All our Heart, Mind, Soul, Strength...

Love God with ALL THAT YOU ARE.... He is the object of our worship... You are the instrument of his praise

All your heart

There is a lot to talk about with the subject of Loving God and worshipping. If you have any questions be sure to text them into us. We will try to answer them. The next 2 Sundays we are going to talk about Loving God with all your Mind & Strength, today in these closing minutes I'm going to talk to you about Loving the Lord with all your heart.

HEART

Our heart contains powerful emotions, affections and desires. Our heart steers our life.

Every word that comes out of your mouth comes from your heart

The Old Testament meaning of Heart isn't like we understand in our culture.

Seat of the Emotions – Bowels/intestines

Heart – Center. Center of your life. The heart is the Center of all that is you.

The Shema is telling us to Love God from the Center of who we are.

We are each built to care greatly about something. It isn't normal for us to not be excited about something. There is something that we love that we can't wait to tell others about. It's on the inside of us... just bursting to come out.

Worship & Love should be just like that. We are created to worship from our heart. The Center.

## TREASURE

Our affections follow what we treasure.

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.(NIV)

Jesus just gave us the answer on how to love God with all our hearts. The heart loves what it treasures! **Your treasure and your heart will occupy the same space.**

**The Treasure is discovered and then the Affection comes.**

If you aren't feeling great affection towards God then I would ask if you've really discovered the Treasure that is

HIM. The Treasure that is His Word... His Power, His Presence.

Matthew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.(NIV)

**In order for the heart to love Jesus completely, it has to treasure Him supremely.** Our affections are the outcome of what we treasure. When we truly encounter the Lord in His glory and worth, loving Him with all our hearts will be the end result. Do you realize there is no greater Treasure than Jesus?

## AIM TO MAKE JESUS YOUR GREATEST TREASURE

For the Apostle Paul, Jesus was THE treasure of his life. The loss of everything else was nothing compared to gaining Christ.

Phil. 3:8 "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ."



Eph. 3:8 ...this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Here is a picture of a man who found a treasure that exceeds all others. Jesus. Nothing comes close! The glory of Jesus is so amazing and so satisfying that once discovered, all else pales in comparison.

When we divert our attention away from the Lord, our love will begin to grow cold. It's that simple. A lethargic church or Christian life can be traced back to hearts that have misplaced affections. The greatest treasure is no longer Christ but something or someone else. This comes when we are no longer worshipping the creator but a created thing.

Jesus is your treasure... and you worship Him from the heart... the very center of who you are.

We are about to open this altar for a time of worship and prayer. I want to share one last thing with you.

To Love God with all your heart you have to SHEMA...

Remember that Shema means "Hear"

When you love someone, from your heart you listen to them... You don't just hear that they are talking... you hear exactly what they are saying... When you are actively loving with all your heart you don't gloss over the details of what they are saying... You treasure what they say...

And you don't just understand the details... you feel the emotion of what they are saying... you understand them.

You hear them and then you respond. This is Shema Worship.

LISTEN RESPOND

Shotgun wedding...