

# Streams of Living Water 4

## Opening the Floodgates of Worship

### WORSHIP IS:

- \* God's FIRST & GREATEST COMMAND (Matthew 22:37-38).
- \* Our HIGHEST CALLING (see Westminster Shorter Catechism).
- \* David's ONE THING (Psalm 27:4).
- \* What the FATHER is LOOKING for (John 4:23-24).

### WHY DOES GOD DEMAND OUR WORSHIP? (John 7:37-38)

- \* God knows we have a deep THIRST only He can SATISFY.
  - \* He knows it's crucial for all of us to take a forward step and COME to Him.
  - \* Praise FEEDS and ENERGISES our FAITH.
  - \* We need to take a long, refreshing DRINK frequently.
- *Why do you think God demands our worship? What are the benefits of being a worshipper? Would you describe yourself as a worshipper?*

### THIRST

- \* God PERMITS us to experience some pain, because it tends to PUSH us TOWARDS Him.
  - \* DANGER: When we feel PAIN, rather than SEEKING God, we MEDICATE it.
  - \* God has provided the perfect way to SATISFY your THIRST for relational INTIMACY = WORSHIP (Matthew 5:6).
- *How would you characterise this 'thirst?' Does everyone have it? What does it look or feel like for you? Why is it there?*
- *In what different ways do people 'medicate their pain' or 'satisfy their thirst?' What about you: Where do you go that distracts you from running to God?*

### COME (Matthew 11:28, Hebrews 4:16)

- \* God calls us to come, because worship is a TWO-WAY STREET: As we POUR our hearts out to God, He POURS out to us LOVE, JOY, PEACE & UNTOLD RICHES in return.
  - \* How do we come? Psalm 100:4
- *How do we come to God? What part does praise play in that? What part does worship play in it? What is the difference between praise and worship?*
- *Who makes the first move?*
- *Why do we need the presence of God?*
- *How does worship change us?*
- *What does God use worship to teach us?*

### DRINK

- \* Not sure we're very good at DRINKING, because we're pre-programmed by RELIGION to DO, DO, DO.
- \* John 7:37 doesn't say, "Come unto me and THINK ... and out of his INTELLECT shall flow ..."

- \* DANGER: Our Christianity remains INTELLECTUAL and never becomes SPIRITUAL (John 4:13-14).
  - \* You won't be satisfied just because you're THIRSTY ... Not even because you COME ... You have to DRINK!
- *Are you good at drinking? If you're honest, are you more comfortable doing / giving than receiving? Why does receiving need to precede giving?*
- *"We can easily forget that His supernatural provision is of infinitely greater significance than our best and most determined efforts." Discuss!*
- *"The danger is our Christianity remains intellectual and never becomes spiritual." Discuss!*
- *Read the story of Mary & Martha in Luke 10 through this lens. What does it teach us?*

### HOW DO WE DRINK?

1. ENTER in, don't just stand on the FRINGE.  
→ *How does one 'enter in?' Do you? How could you 'jump into the river?' What might happen if we all did just that?*
2. DRAW from the GIFT.
  - \* Grace GIVES, but you need FAITH to RECEIVE.→ *"Hard, stony, cold hearts and wide open, receptive hearts both sit in the same services, and tend to get very different results." Discuss!*
3. Learn to SUBMIT not RESIST.
  - \* We're supposed to SUBMIT to God and RESIST the devil ... Not the other way round! (Acts 7:51, 1 Thessalonians 5:19)→ *When it comes to worship in church, would you describe yourself as submitted or resistant? In what ways do people resist? How might you become more submissive?*

### RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

- Scripture is rich with imagery (Isaiah 35:5-7, Psalm 36:8-9, Isaiah 41:17-19)
- \* Worship is a SEED-BED of Word, prayer & prophecy.
  - \* Worship is where God MOVES, STIRS, HEALS & SAVES.
  - \* It's a place of RICH TREASURE; we've only begun to scratch the surface.
- *What is the 'treasure' in His presence?*

### WHAT NEXT?

1. Worship remains a HIGH PRIORITY at the Barn.
2. We'll keep giving the 'CALL TO WORSHIP.'
3. Everyone has a PART to PLAY in helping worship leaders take us into God's presence.  
→ *What does this mean? How can we help? What might we do? How does the congregation help the worship team, and vice-versa?*
4. We'll keep DEVELOPING the worship TEAM.

### RESPONSE

1. *How do you personally satisfy your THIRST?*
2. *How readily and with what spirit do you COME?*
3. *Are you a DRINKER or thinker?*
4. *How could you deepen your personal worship life?*
5. *What contribution could you make to enrich ours?*