

“I am the Lord’s servant, may your word to me be fulfilled.”¹ My point of view...of me, the Lord’s servant. It isn’t a matter of what I’ve done or what I will do, it’s who I am. That’s how I see myself, the Lord’s servant. And it’s likely why I was chosen.

I’m one of the best known people in the Bible, but almost all of my quoted words are in one chapter, Luke Chapter One, where you find me saying, “I am the Lord’s servant, may your word to me be fulfilled.”²

Not long after I say that, I’m with my cousin, Elizabeth, glorifying God. Those words, my words, are referred to as The Magnificat. And will become one of the oldest Christian hymns. “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.”³

I am, uhh, small, tiny, not much in comparison to God. As his servant, I am humble...he is magnificent.

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being.”⁴

I get tears of joy whenever I think of the first few words of that song sung eternally by creatures of Heaven to God, “You are Worthy, our Lord and God.”

“Worthy”...”worth - y”. Worthy means of high worth, and in this case, of infinite worth.

“You are *worth-y*, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power.”

By his very nature, because of who he is, God warrants glory and honor and power.

Glorifying God simply means to recognize who he is, to recognize his *worth-y*-ness.

There are so many ways we can do this! Sing his praises, pray to him, spend time with him, talk about him to others.

Every baby is special, but my Jesus was special beyond comparison. From the moment of his birth, incredible lessons in worshipping God.

¹ Luke 1:38

² Luke 1:38

³ Luke 1:46-47

⁴ Revelation 4:11

Joseph and I, and our new baby. It was... I held that little bundle so close. We looked out at the night sky; Thousands and thousands and thousands of angels! Because of his birth, the birth of the savior of the world, my baby. "Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace and good will to all mankind."⁵ The angels were worshiping, praising God.

It seemed minutes later shepherds came. Came to us. Well, came to him really. Their eyes so wild with amazement, peering at the newborn lying in hay, in a feeding trough. They left us worshiping and glorifying God. They spread the word to everyone who would listen about Jesus, the angels, and all they had seen and heard.⁶

Eight days later, we took Jesus to the Temple to be consecrated to the Lord as our firstborn.⁷ As we entered, a man, an elderly man met us. So gentle, he took Jesus into his arms and began to worship God. He had waited for this day his entire life. And then, this old woman, a moment later, a widow for most of her life, spent her days and nights in the temple, fasting, praying...she never left. A prophetess. She walks over to us, and prophesies to all the people who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. He was barely a week old, his newborn skin just flawless against their aged and wrinkled, creased from decades of waiting and prayer. I could barely take it in. Holy moments, but so every-day at the same time.

We were in awe at the reactions our baby inspired, but the best was yet to come. I'm a village girl. We were in a house in Bethlehem. When we heard a huge commotion. Men, and bells, camel's bells. This entourage of wealthy foreigners arrived to see us. Well, not us. Odd accents as they spoke, so exotic and dressed...so opulently. And the moment they saw Jesus, they collapsed to their knees, bowed so low, and worshiped him. They left gifts... worth a fortune. Gold, myrrh, and frankincense. And rest assured, this wasn't about us.

Worshiping God and him only? Joseph and I got a crash course!

You are not to have any gods before God, and you are not to bow down or worship other gods, the first two of the Ten Commandments.

The most important way to worship God is to not worship any other gods. And I'm not talking just about idols made of wood or gold, I'm talking about anything you put into importance on: what captures your attention? What do you turn to, time and time again? I'm tempted to leave this a rhetorical question, but I implore you, examine your own heart. Is it fame, or money, or power? Entertainment, a hobby, what you look like or what you wish you looked like? Distractions of all kinds. Don't be lured away. Nothing and no one compares to the Lord our God. Beware.

Sometimes idols and other gods come in the most ironic ways. In my time, we had a very influential religious group of Jews named the Pharisees. Experts in God's laws. They were strict, so strict that they made up laws to protect themselves from breaking other laws. It got to the

⁵ Luke 2:9-14

⁶ Luke 2:16-20

⁷ Luke 2:22

point where they worshiped God's Law instead of worshiping God. Think about that. My son had quite a time trying to get them to recognize the errors of their ways.

Jesus had a remarkable way of getting to the heart of a matter. "Where your treasure is, that is where your heart also is."⁸ If you want to know what you really worship, examine how you spend your time, your money, your thoughts.

It stings a bit if you examine your life. After all, many of us want to have it both ways: we want to serve God, but we also want to satisfy our own wants. It just doesn't work that way.

Jesus makes it clear. I can practically hear his voice: "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and anything else."⁹

You cannot have it both ways. Either you are serving God and him only, or you are worshiping something else. And what else are you likely to be worshiping? If you aren't worshiping God, you are most likely going to worship yourself!

That's really the choice. Will you worship and serve God and him only, or will you worship and serve yourself? The first choice leads to life, the second does not.

I was never so proud of my Son as when I heard of his response to Satan when being tempted in the wilderness. He used Scripture in his responses to Satan, three times. And the last response to his last temptation? "Away from me, Satan. For it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."⁹

Be a servant of the Lord. Worship him and him only.

⁸ Matthew 6:21

⁹ Matthew 6:24 In the NIV, it ends with 'money' not "anything else'