

“He Is Worthy”
By Brother Kenneth Ray
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Worthy—Having worth, value, merit. (Webster’s Dictionary)

Jesus does not value you just showing up. Jesus does not value you being able to recite scripture, even if you know it word-for-word. He doesn’t value that. What He values is you *living* the Scripture. What He values is you doing the little things that draw you closer to Him. He is worthy. If it was easy, we wouldn’t call it work, but He’s worth it. Jesus is worth the payment that it takes, every day, to get the prize. Jesus has worth, value, and merit.

Psalms 18:3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised...

This is the verse that we’ll draw from today, as we look at God’s Word, and allow God to teach us that which we need. Not every one of you are going to get the same thing out of the message today, but you’re going to get what you need. We don’t all have the same things in our lives, but we all need something. That which we need, God will provide this morning.

“Is it worth it?” or “Was it worth it?” That is the question that my mother would repeat over and over again, when I did something, or made a choice, and the outcome was less than beneficial; mostly in my teen-age years. Most of the time, I would reply, “No, it was not worth it.” There were a few times (just a few) when I felt it was worth all the trouble.

There have been a few times in my life today when, looking back on something I had done, I have to say that it wasn’t worth it. There have been a few cases when I might say that, yeah, it really was worth all that trouble. The value of whatever the outcome was, it was worth the trouble. Maybe you went to someone and you had to seriously speak to someone about something, and you really didn’t want to. This person that you care about, and you know really well, and you don’t like arguing with them. The worst person, the hardest person, to talk to (in correction) is your best bud, those that hang out with you. You just don’t want to tell them “You made a mistake. That wasn’t cool.” Sometimes we have to. You know you’re going to hurt their feelings. You know that there’s going to be some abrasiveness there. You know that you’re going to feel bad.

We didn’t come to cheer for Jesus this morning; we came to live humbly in front of Him, and let Him cheer for us. “Consider My servant, (*fill in your name here*).” Who is worthy to have Jesus ask the devil, “Have you considered My servant...” like He did for Job. Job’s not the only one who should have the ability to put his name in that spot. We all have the ability to do that, just by counting Him worthy, by making Him the value in our lives that’s more important than anything else. Choosing to do right when we know we could do wrong. We’re old enough to know better and to do what we know.

King David, before he was king, and after, gave some really good examples of someone who knew to do good and *didn’t* do, but also someone who knew to do good and *did* do. He had his Bathsheba, but he was also a man after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 13:34). Which is why the Bible says that a righteous man will fall seven times, and *get back up* (Proverbs 24:16). You’re going to make some mistakes; you’re going to make some bad choices somewhere along the way. It is how we learn to do better. We make a mistake; we learn the lesson; we keep going.

Aaron, as much of a help as he was to Moses, he was the one that made the golden calf when Israel was in the wilderness, but he was also the one that, Moses said, “Put fire in your censer and run out between the plague and the people.” He didn’t say, “But I made a boo-boo.” He learned his lesson, and he went out, and he did it. Today, you may find yourself in that spot, and God wants to show you that you’re still worth it, because He’s still worthy of His praise. In your hard times, it’s not easy to say, “Hallelujah, thank You, Jesus. It’s raining and my hair is all messed up. My clothes are soaking wet and I’m shivering.” Even in those times, you’re going to find that God is worthy of your praise because He’s still bringing you through it. He didn’t forsake you there; the waters not up to your nose and about to drown you. He can still bring you through it. The Bible talks about how we’re going to deal with things. He worthy, church, and not only in the good times.

Psalms 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Who said that? David. I want you to focus on who’s speaking here, today. From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh (Matthew 12:34). When you have Christ in your heart, there’s going to be a lot of things that happen around you. When you have His praises in your heart, your mouth will speak it. From the abundance of the heart, He can live there, He can be there, and you can speak His glory.

It could be worse. Of course, it could be better, but thank God that it’s not any worse. It’s odd how we look at it; is the glass half empty or half full? I’m just glad I have something in the glass. I’m glad He hasn’t left me. I’m just glad there’s something in the tank. If there’s something in the tank, I can start; I can always get more. I can allow Him to take out what doesn’t belong.

As we focus on this, we need to address the three-letter question: Why? As a flesh-and-blood creature, that three-letter question dominates a lot of our lives. Is He worth it? Notice that the title of the sermon is not, “Is He Worthy?” but “He Is Worthy.” If you don’t understand the why, then ask of God, He will give you understanding, He gives to all men liberally, that means a lot (James 1:5). Is it worth it? Remember that question that my mom would torment me with—I mean ask over and over again. There will be events in this life, or more events, that will cause you and I to ask that question about our service to our Savior and our Creator, and giving praise to God. Why does God allow this to happen?

Do you remember Job? Everything was taken away from him, even to the point where he cursed the day he was born, but he not the God that created him. What did he get the end? a double blessing. Don’t stop at the first sign of trouble.

Why do we give service to God? Why do we give praise unto God? Consider Job’s story, and others like it. He started off good, and he had a rough spot, and then it got good again. You have to consider the end of it, not just the middle. Consider the cause of it; maybe God wants a change out of you. Because He’s worthy, because He’s worth it, because of lessons that come from Him, we can praise Him even when we’re questioning Him. Why do we do that? because He’s still God.

There’s a song that we sing: “When I think of the goodness of Jesus/And all He has done for me/My soul cries out, “Hallelujah,/Thank God for saving me.”

Let me tell you something that you already know: Even when it is decided in our minds and in our hearts that it isn’t worth it, He is still worthy. Remember Abraham? God told him that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah; Abraham asked if God would destroy the

righteous with the unrighteous. Abraham asked, “Peradventure there are fifty righteous in the city?” God said He would not destroy the city if there were fifty. So Abraham asked about forty. Eventually he whittled it down to ten. God said if there were ten then He would not destroy the city. Why? because He’s worth it, church. God is worthy of going to talk to Him about it. There are going to be things in your life that you’re going to find that are worth it, and you’re going to have to talk to God about those things. Is it the thorn in your flesh that you want removed (2 Corinthians 12:7)? Is that the issue of blood that the woman had that she needed healed (Matthew 9:19-22)? Are you at the pool that heals when the water is disturbed by the angels, but you needed help getting into it (John 5:2-9)? All these are things that Jesus is worthy to go to because no one else can really help you the same way. And it is worthy. Ask a millionaire or a billionaire if it was worth it, they’ll say yes. Ask that same millionaire or a billionaire if it was fun, they’re going to think that you’re dumb. They found something that produced income, and they did over and over and over again. It doesn’t mean it was fun; the desired outcome was worth it. It’s not always fun what we have to do as Christians, but when we come to that day when we hear, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord.” (Matthew 25:21) It’s gonna be worth it on that day. It won’t be worth it to the flesh, because it won’t be there, but the spirit’s going to sing, “Hallelujah, thank God for saving me.” We won’t care about the flesh like we do now.

Psalms 34:4 ... he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

...all my fears. You don’t have to be brave.

Psalms 34:6 ... the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Is He worthy of your praise? You’ve got troubles? He can deliver you out of them all. He’s worthy, this morning, church.

Psalms 34:7-8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.

Even when I can’t see what’s five feet in front of me; I can trust God. I can look at what’s twenty feet behind me, and I’m blessed because I’m still going forward. He is still worthy. Did you think life was supposed to be all roses? Remember that roses have thorns. As beautiful as they are, sometimes they hurt. Taste the goodness of God; look and see what He’s done, and say thank you. He is *so* worthy of it. The second part of our opening verse (Psalms 18:3) reads, “So shall I be saved from mine enemies.”

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Is that a misprint? Did I misread that? So that means me? that means you? Many are the afflictions of the righteous? I don’t get a discount? Oh, but it says that the Lord will deliver us from the afflictions, in whatever form they are. You’re going to go through things. You see an impossible task, and you say, “This too shall pass.” Or you see a mountain, and tell the mountain to get out of the way, and it’ll move (Matthew 21:21). When you praise Him, that’s the kind of confidence—that’s not cockiness, it’s assurance. Is anything too big for my God, is

anything too hard (Jeremiah 32:27)? All the Scriptures reflect it, if you'll just look. He makes Himself real worthy. Oh, but the sun is scorching me. He's still worthy.

Psalms 34:22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of His servants: and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate.

That's a good one right there. It doesn't say *all* servants; it says *His* servants. When you're not His, then it's not worth it. None of them that trust in Him shall be desolate. You're not suffering because you give in the offering. You're going to receive afflictions. But when I praise God, people pick at me. True, but God blesses you. We're all going to receive some of that. Even if you don't trust God, you're going to get picked on anyway; people in the world pick on each other.

The question that it comes down to is, "Do you trust Him today?" Do you call on the Name with saving power of the soul? I know that tomorrow, whatever comes, that is not too much for God to handle, for I am your servant, and the power of God is in His Word. He won't lie. The Father of Lies tells you, "Oh, just give up. Let go." Jesus tells you, "Let of your burdens." The devil says you just flat out let go; he's not worth it. The devil is preparing you a home all right. It's not the home that you want to go to. It's not a good house, and his rules apply. God has a house made for you; in Satan's house, you're not family.

Psalms 35:3 Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.

Because of that, church, He is worthy of our praise. He's already paid a debt that I couldn't pay. For that one act alone, He's worthy of my praise. When I start connecting all the dots of all the things that He's done just for me, how can we keep from singing? How can you not worship God?

When you look back on whatever it is, you will be able to count your blessings. As you go forward, we learn to pass on the results.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.