**Recalibrate - Week 1 - Recalibrate**

**Introduction:**

When it comes to directions and navigation, I think the world can basically be divided into two types of people:

* There are those who trust GPS. It can be Google Maps, Waze, whatever; you punch it in and you follow the directions.
* Then there are those who think they know more than the GPS. You use it, but half the time you think you got a short cut that Google doesn’t know.

Let’s see a show of hands…

* How many of you implicitly trust your GPS more than you do your own sense of navigation?
* How many of you think your GPS is not to be fully trusted?

Michael Scott and Dwight Shrute illustrate these two world views perfectly and here is what happened to them…

(video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOW_kPzY_JY> 0:00 – 2:11)

**Compass**

Now, long before we ever had GPS we had these things (holds up a compass). How many of you have played with a compass before? Maybe on a hike, or scouting or you noticed those little green letters in the corner of your rear view mirror?

These are tremendously fascinating little pieces of equipment. Some consider the invention of the compass to be the single greatest invention of all time.

* The invention of the compass is what allowed all exploration to begin.
* The invention of the compass is also what made it possible to travel in all kinds of weather conditions.

Others will say the invention of fire or the wheel or gunpowder was more impactful…maybe so, but on any list, right up there at the top or near the top of the list is this (holds it up)…the compass!

It was the Chinese that figured out that the earth is a giant magnet and that the magnetic field it creates is strong enough to point the compass true north. Until this thing (compass) was invented in 206 B.C. by the Chinese every mariner was terrified about going off-course while at sea; accidently ending up in bad waters or ending up shipwrecked. So, many years later, when the compass finally became popular in the west around 1300 A.D. it was this remarkable tool that could keep them on course no matter what – good weather or bad weather, storm or calm, night or day. And it wasn’t long until every mariner in every ocean in the world fearlessly relied on a compass for directions.

**A Primal Fear**

I think being lost at sea without something or someone to guide us is a sort of primal fear – cause that narrative and story line keeps coming up over and over again…

* How many of you saw Tom Hanks *Castaway*?
* Similar story line in *Titanic*, *Perfect Storm*, *Captain Phillips*, *The Life of Pi*, *Poseiden Adventure.* The list goes on and on…
* Did any of you see the movie *Adrift* this summer?
* And of course *Giligans Island*…

Help me out (have them finish the underlined parts)…

*Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale
a tale of a fateful trip,
that started from this tropic port,
aboard this tiny ship.*

*The mate was a mighty sailin' man,
the Skipper brave and sure,
five passengers set sail that day,
for a three hour tour,
a three hour tour.*

*The weather started getting rough,
the tiny ship was tossed.
If not for the courage of the fearless crew
the Minnow would be lost.
The Minnow would be lost.*

And in the middle of a storm what we all need is something to keep us from getting lost! We need a tool to calibrate us and recalibrate us and help us find our way.

So, today we’re starting a brand new series called “Recalibrate.” For the next few weeks we’re going to look at some of the ‘tools’ that God has given us to keep us from drifting and getting lost. We are going to look at several tools that will recalibrate our hearts and minds back towards God.

Here is why this is so important. Every life is going to have storms. Jesus told us the truth, “In this world you will have trouble.” My life, your life will have times when our worlds feel turned upside down. Some of us are in the middle of a storm right now! And with all the crazy twists and turns it will be easy for us to drift. We can lose perspective; we can forget the truths we know; we can wander from God and we end up all alone and in places we never intended to be! And what we need is something like a compass that always points true north; we need something to help us point our lives and passions back in the right direction.

**Worship Recalibrates**

And one of the tools that God gives us that recalibrates our lives is worship. Worship recalibrates us. Worship gets us realigned in the right direction - true “north.” Worship recalibrates our hearts and our minds to God.

So if worship is one of the instruments that recalibrates us; what exactly and specifically is worship? What does it mean to worship God? There’s a lot of talk about worship.

* Some people think that worship is a type of music, like what we did a little while ago.
* Some people believe that worship is something for super spiritual people.
* Others believe worship is something that only happens at certain times and at certain places - like within these walls on Sunday mornings.

Back in Jesus’ day people had some of the same notions about worship. In fact, Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman at a well who had some of these misconceptions about what worship really is.

**Backdrop to John 4**

Now, before we dive into the Bible story in John 4, let me tell you a bit about what’s going on in Israel at the time. Jews and Samaritans didn’t get along...it’s a pretty complicated history, like most things in that part of the world, but basically… **(READ QUICKLY FOR EFFECT)** a kingdom split in two, which split the religion that eventually introduced other Gods...a big 10 no no, the northern half of people came up with their own ideas on where and how to worship which was considered extreme heresy by the other guys, they eventually intermarried with the locals, which was forbidden back in the day, a priest who did that got kicked out and built his own temple nowhere near the traditional one and now we’re a few centuries in the future and a few more wars in the rear view and everyone just hates each other’s guts. Phew!...

**John 4**

Given that contentious backdrop, Jesus happens upon a Samaritan woman getting some water and he strikes up a conversation with her. Understand, this was a massive taboo on a several levels.

* Men weren’t supposed to talk to women.
* And Jews aren’t to talk with Samaritans.
* But Jesus was talking to her!

This. Was. Crazy!

Jesus asks her for a drink of water. They strike up a conversation. The conversation lead to talking about her personal life. Jesus stuns her a bit because he knows some things about her even though they’ve just met and she finally says to him…

“’Sir,’ the woman said, ‘I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.’” (John 4:19-20 NIV)

The Samaritan woman is bringing up one of the major questions people had about worship at the time. Where should I worship? Where should I point my compass? Jesus’ answer completely recalibrates the conversation.

“’Woman,’ Jesus replied, ‘believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.’” (John 4:21-24)

Remember this woman knows generations of people who have argued about worship and Jesus tells her that “where” a person worships no longer matters. Rather “how” a person worships is what really counts! The way in which one conducts their worship is what really matters.

**3C’s and Worship**

Here at COMMUNITY we challenge people to be 3C Christ followers. And by 3C Christ followers we mean…

* ***Celebrate*** *–* join us here and celebrate together what God has done and will do in our lives.
* ***Connect*** *–* join a small group and live in community, support and encourage one another through the storms of life.
* ***Contribute*** *–* join us on this Jesus mission by giving your time, talents and treasures to this great cause.

Now, which of these is worship? *Celebrate, connect or contribute?* (pause). Yes! All of them are our worship! Maybe you are thinking, “Hold it, I thought that moment in the Sunday service when we sing together was worship?!?” It is! It is kind of like the moutain top. And it has a great way of recalibrating our lives. But celebrating together is not all there is to worship. Connecting is also worship. Contributing is worship. All 3 C’s are a form of worship. See, just like the Samaritan women who thougth worship only happened on the “mountain” or “in Jerusalem” we misunderstood what worship really is.

Let me define worship for you:

***Worship:*** Giving your whole self to God. (repeat)

This was the definition that Jesus was trying to give to the Samaritan women and to you and me. So with these words Jesus points her back north. He tells her that true worshippers will worship God in **spirit** and **truth**! Spirit and truth, ok, great...but what does that mean?

**True Worship - An Inner Reality**

First, Jesus is reminding us that true worship is an inner reality. It is not about a certiain time on Sunday moring; it’s not about a certain place called a church building. It’s not about great music or muscians. While worship may happen at that time and at that place; true worship is an inner reality can and should happen over and over again for us. And Jesus intentionally uses these two words: in **spirit** and in **truth.**

**“In Spirit” - True worship engages our heart.**

When Jesus says in “Spirit” he is talking about how true worship engages our **hearts** and turns our conviction and will toward God. When I worship, and by that I mean come surrendering myself wholly to God, I can feel my heart being pulled toward Him. While worship is not limited to this room (remember it’s giving your whole self to God), it often happens in this room. And when I’m in the midst of worship I can feel my heart, my will, my loyalties being pulled back on course toward God. You know what I mean? Do you experience that?

But while I can feel it, this is not only a feeling. Worship is an act of the heart and will. Worship leader, Graham Kendrick explains it this way: *“Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which ‘comes upon you,’ but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.”* True worship engages our **hearts** and turns our will, convictions and loyalties toward God.

**“In Truth” - True worship engages our head.**

Jesus adds that true worshippers also worship in “Truth.” When he says that he is talking about how worship not only engages our **hearts,** but it also engages our **heads.** It recalibrates our minds to the truth of God. True worship not only changes the convictions of your heart, but it also change the understanding and knowing in our heads. When we worship in “Truth” it will ground us in the teachings of Jesus. True worship has a way of causing us to reflect on our lives and recalibrate our thinking and lives to following Jesus!

So, please get this – true worship is not just something that happens when we sing songs or get an adrenalin rush cause the music and band is really good that Sunday.

It was about 20 years ago that I took my first trip to Europe and while I was there I visited a church in England called Soul Survivor. And the reason for going there was because they had gained a reputation for having great worship music led by a great musican and worship pastor, Matt Redman – just phenomenal! But while I was there they told a story and introduced a song that has always stuck with me. They said they went through a season as a church where they were so pre-occupied with making sure the production and muscianship was right that they almost lost sight of why they were doing what they were doing. He described it as worshipping the worship experience. So the pastor, guy named Mike brought the band together and they decided to get rid of the sound system, to ignore the production and strip everything away and have all the people gather with just their voices. He wanted to get back to the heart or worship. He admitted, the first Sunday they did that there was a lot of plain awkward silence. But very soon they got comfortable singing a cappella songs and offering simple heartfelt prayers and encountering God in this fresh new way. And what happened is it made clear to this church that worship was not only singing. And it wasn’t only singing when the band sounded really, really good. No, that worship was giving your whole self to God. Celebrate. Connect. Contribute.

As a result of that season, the worship pastor wrote a song called, “The Heart of Worship.” Do any of you know it? The lyrics are…

*When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come / Longing just to bring something that’s of worth that will bless your heart… / I’m coming back to the heart of worship, and it’s all about You, Jesus*

And that song became an anthem for that church and for many other churches, including our church over the next few years.

There are lots of things that can get in the way of true worship.

* Our desires can get in the way.
* Our wanting to be in charge can get in the way.
* Our worries.
* Our agenda.

Anything that becomes more important than acknowledging God as Lord and leader of our life can get in the way. Even worship music can get in the way! Worship is coming before God and offering our whole selves to him. And when we do that – with music or without music; it recalibrates our hearts and our heads!

The bottom line: Jesus says if our hearts and our heads aren’t engaged, all we’re doing is visiting a mountain and not worshipping.

**True Worship - An Outer Reality**

So, true worship is an inner reality that we experience in “Spirit” and “Truth.” But I also have to remind us that true worship is also an outer reality!

When I get a text from someone in my small group telling me that they have a job interview coming up or they have a parent that is sick and I stop and text them telling them that I am praying for them – that is true worship.

When we do summer serve and I take part of Saturday or Sunday and use my time and talent to help those who have less than me and make Gods’ world more like he meant for it to be – that is true worship.

When we sacrifice financially as a part of Celebration Generosity so kids in other parts of the world have the same opportunities our kids have OR so we can plant churches so others can find their way back to God like I did – that is true worship.

The Apostle Paul reminds us what true worship is when he said…

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” (Romans 12:1)

The point – true worship is not just something that happens in here (point to head and heart), but it also happens out there (point to the crowd or the doors). It is both an inner reality and an outer reality and when we worship with our whole selves – it recalibrates our lives toward God.

**Challenge: A Warning About Drifting**

We have covered a lot of ground today. We come to realize that yes, worship happens on Sunday mornings, but it is NOT ONLY singing on Sundays. Worship happens through *celebrating, connecting* and *contributing.* Worship is giving our whole self to God. With that understaning I want to come back to our big idea and what makes worship so important for you. Worship recalibrates our hearts, our heads and our wholes selves back to God.

In the middle of the storms of life we will drift. We will get lost. We will find ourselves in places we never intended to be. Consider this. If you're going somewhere and you drift by just one degree, after one foot, you'll miss your target by 0.2 inches. No big deal, right? But what about as you get farther out?

* After 100 yards, you'll be off by 5 feet. Not huge, but noticeable.
* After a mile, you'll be off by 92 feet. One degree is starting to make a difference.
* But if you were trying to travel from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., that 1 degree off would cause you to end up north of Baltimore!
* And if you are in a rocket going to the moon, being 1 degree off will cause you to be 4,169 miles off course! Not even close!

We have to beware of drifting! And because I want the best for you, let me be honest with you – some of you right now are drifting away from God. You are not as close to him as you once were. If you think about where you are now, you are in a different place spiritually than you were a month ago…a year ago…totally off course compared to where you were 5 years ago. And the truth is - you never intended to be where you are! You are drifting!

What you need is worship. You need moments when you intentionally give your whole self to God. Worship realigns. Worship is a spiritual GPS that re-routes us. Worship is God’s compass that point us back to him.

In case the definition of giving our whole selves to God feels overwhelming, let me end by reminding you that worship also happens 1 degree at a time. A spiritual contemplative referred to as Brother Lawrence put it this way: *“God does not ask much of us, merely a thought of Him from time to time, a little act of adoration, sometimes to ask for His grace, sometimes to offer Him your sufferings, at other times to thank Him for the graces, past and present, He has bestowed on you, in the midst of your troubles to take solace in Him as often as you can. Lift up your heart to Him during your meals and in company; the least little remembrance will always be the most pleasing to Him. One need not cry out very loudly; He is nearer to us than we think.”*

So, let’s all course correct right now. Just by 1 degree.

When I move 1 degree closer to God…

* My life works.
* My relationships work.
* My life’s has purpose.
* My life has meaning.
* I experience the abundant life that God meant for me!

When we we all move 1 degree closer to God…

* Our lives work.
* Our community works.
* This church fulfills it’s mission.
* We begin to make this world more like God always meant it to be!

Let’s all move 1 degree closer to God right now as I pray.

**(Prayer)**

**Communion Idea**

In Apostle Paul challenges us to worship. He challenges us to give our whole selves to God when he says…

**“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”** (I Corinthians 10:31

Paul is saying…

* “You are going to satisfy your hunger at least 3x a day – do that for the glory of God.”
* “You are going to satisfy your thirst multiple times a day – do that for the glory of God.”
* “You are going to work and recreate and hangout with friends, so he adds, “…whatever you do” – do it all for the glory of God!

I want to challenge you with those words. As you take the bread it is a reminder of Jesus who gave us his body. As you take this cup, it is reminder of Jesus who gave us shed his blood for us. So,, let this communion moment not be just a Sunday morning church ritutal. But let this be a moment where you commit your whole self to God.