

WORSHIP
Sermon by Nathan Miles: USBC – 13 April 2008

1. Introduction

- Wanted to talk and think about worship.
- Occurs all through the bible in different forms.
- One of only a few things we do each week at church. Bible, prayer and worship...so it's important and worth a look at to check we've got the right idea and we're worshipping in a way that's consistent with the bible.

2. Worship should be inside out

- Focus here on times of corporate worship.
- Our worship reflects what's on the inside.
- It's a response to who God is and what God has done (for us).
 - **References**
 - God who made the universe, who sustains it (just right distance from the sun), who is perfect, who loves us even though we aren't.
 - Remember a time God did something amazing, or simple, in your life.
 - But sometimes we don't take the time to remember.
 - Worship should also be heartfelt. We can sing songs, but it doesn't make it worship.
 - *Actus reus* and *mens rea*.

Cain & Abel – first worship?

- Genesis 4:1-5
- Bible scholars suggest that it wasn't the gift that was the problem, but the attitude with which it was given.
- The Lord looked with favour on Abel.

So, how can we take time to prepare the inside before we come to worship together

- This applies for all worship, but especially easy for singing and corporate worship.
- What do we do, what *can* we do (as worshippers and worship leaders) to prepare ourselves for worship?

3. Worship should/is more than just times of corporate worship

- USBC motto
- Luke 10:27

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'*

- **And...and...and**
- Heart isn't enough, soul, strength and mind aren't enough. It's all of them.

And...

'...love your neighbour as yourself...'

- So, worship has a spiritual, ethereal quality to it. But it also has a really practical quality to it. Worship is far more than just singing nice songs. How we live our lives is an offering of worship...how good an offering is it?
- Love up, love out!

4. Groups

- Something in groups. Pray/worship together or discuss what's helpful in worship...