

Short Talk

(SHT006)

Worship is a wholehearted activity

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SHORT TALK: “WORSHIP IS A WHOLE HEARTED ACTIVITY” (SHT006)

- Aim of Short talk:** To encourage people to worship God in a whole hearted way.
- Main themes:** Worship
- Biblical references:** Mark 12:30
- Props:** Two aprons, a table, which is covered in newspaper (or some other covering) on which is a pair of shoes (upon which has been put some shoe-polish ready to be brushed off), two shoe-brushes and two dusters.
- Before the Service:** Invite two children / young people to help you. Tell them that you are going to ask each of them to clean a shoe for you. Ask one of them to pick up a shoe-brush and then work really hard at brushing the shoe to make it shine, finishing it off with the duster. Ask the other one to pick up a duster and to then not bother at all about cleaning the shoe.....but to just casually flick the duster over it, meanwhile constantly checking their mobile phone!

Good morning. *(Bring forward table with shoes on it so that it is centre stage)*

- Before I came to church this morning, I didn't have time to clean my shoes,
- so if my two willing helpers could come forward please.

You will each need to put on an apron,

- so that you can keep yourself clean. *(Hand out aprons)*

Come and stand behind this table.

- What I need you to do is to clean my shoes for me. Is that OK?
- There is one shoe, a brush and a duster each.
- Can you see if you can make them look better for me?

(One helper picks up a shoe-brush and starts to vigorously brush the shoe all around, making it shine, finishing it off with the duster. The other helper picks up a duster and vaguely waves it in the direction of the shoe, whilst constantly checking their mobile phone. After a short while say something like:)

Two people were asked to do the same task.

- One of them could hardly be bothered to clean my shoe,
- whereas the other one whole-heartedly cleaned my shoe as best as they could.....
- and look, it is shining.
- Two completely different attitudes to shoe cleaning.

This morning we have gathered here to worship God;

- to give him our thanksgiving and our praise,
- to learn from His Word,
- and to bring our prayers to Him.

What attitude do you think honours God when we worship Him?

- The attitude that can hardly be bothered or the attitude that is whole-hearted?

Jesus said: “Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind and with **all** your strength.” (Mark 12:30)

- That sounds like whole-hearted worship to me,

So let's praise Him with all of our hearts and all of our strength....

- and not worry about whether we like the song or the service style.....
- that's not important.

Let's pay full attention to the Bible and all that God wants to say to us this morning,

- and forget about our mobile phones or other things that might distract us.

For if we worship God wholeheartedly, we will bring much pleasure to His heart.

(Send volunteers back)