

Isaiah: Offering Hope for the Future



Introduction

Do you have any rituals or superstitions that you participate in or abide by? If so, why do you engage in these activities? Does your involvement in these activities come from a place of sincerity and truth or does it merely reflect outward actions that appease yourself and others?

Today's Lesson Objectives

- **Consider** how God's promise of mercy will triumph over God's judgement
- **Believe** that an essential characteristic of God's nature is forgiveness
- **Rejoice** in the manifestation of God's love in our own lives

Scripture

Isaiah 29:13-24 (KJV)

Devotional Reading:

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (KJV)

About Today's Lesson...

"23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24 (KJV)

These words spoken by Jesus during his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well draw our attention to a very sacred aspect of christian life - worship. The scripture above makes it clear that our heavenly Father is always on the look out for "true worshippers" - people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. But often times we fall short regarding our worship practices. And if we're not careful, our worship can become ritualistic and mired in tradition. Such was the case in the days of the great prophet Isaiah and the people of Judah.

In today's passage of scripture, God accuses the people of hypocrisy in their worship. The people were merely "going through the motions". Heartfelt worship was missing while lip service was in abundance. But through God's mercy and forgiveness, the people would be spiritually revived and restored. Are you a true worshipper? Or are you, like the Israelites in today's story, just going through the motions?

Join Mt. Zion's Virtual Sunday School via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/99731464449?pwd=dUZqWW5MVituL2hTY2NDdU8rVm9Kdz09>

Meeting ID: 997 3146 4449

Passcode: 136910

