

Theology Through the Eyes of Jesus – Lesson 2

“The Priority of Worship: Hallowing God’s Name”

Summary

Jesus begins prayer with God’s holiness, not our needs. “Hallowed be Your name” calls believers to treat God as uniquely holy and to honor His character through worship, reverence, and daily conduct. Worship becomes the starting point of prayer, shaping how we live and how we represent God to the world.

Scripture

Matthew 6:9b

1. Introduction

Opening Thought

Before Jesus teaches us to ask for anything—daily bread, forgiveness, protection—He teaches us to worship. The very first request in the Lord’s Prayer is not about us at all. It is about God’s name.

Jesus is teaching something radical: prayer is not primarily about getting something from God but giving God the honor He is due.

“Hallowed be your name” is not a statement—it’s a petition meaning:

- Father, make Your name holy in my life.
- Let Your reputation be honored through me.
- Let my desires, words, and actions reflect Your worth.

This is the reset button for the human heart: before we ask God to change our circumstances, Jesus tells us to ask God to change US!

Definition of Worship

Worship is the whole-life response of a believer who recognizes and treasures the supreme worth, holiness, and beauty of God. It involves adoration, surrender, obedience, and honor, expressed both in gathered praise and in daily living. Worship is not merely an activity but a posture of the heart that acknowledges God as the highest reality and greatest treasure. Worship is both **expressive** (praise, singing, prayer) and **formational** (shaping desires, character, and obedience).

To worship is to:

- Ascribe worth — declaring God’s unmatched value.
- Adore God’s character — responding to who He is.
- Submit to His authority — aligning our will with His.
- Live for His glory — letting every action reflect His holiness.
- Delight in His presence — enjoying God as the ultimate good.

Example of Worship — Isaiah’s Vision (Isaiah 6:1–8)

One of the clearest pictures of true worship in Scripture is Isaiah’s encounter with God in the temple. It shows what worship really is: a response to the revelation of God’s holiness.

- Worship begins with a vision of God
- Worship produces humility
- Worship receives God’s cleansing
- Worship leads to surrender

Isaiah’s vision shows that worship is seeing God as He is, seeing ourselves as we are, receiving His grace, and responding with surrendered obedience.

2. Description of Worship

“Hallowed” — To Treat as Holy, Set Apart, Revered

“Hallowed” comes from a word meaning to sanctify, to make holy, to set apart as uniquely worthy. You cannot hallow God’s name and treat Him casually at the same time.

- Revering God above all
- Honoring Him in thought, speech, and action
- Refusing to treat Him as ordinary

“Your Name” — God’s Character, Reputation, and Presence

In Scripture, a “name” is not a label—it is the essence of a person. When we pray “Hallowed be Your name,” we are asking God to make His character visible through our lives. To pray “Your name” is to pray about:

- God’s character
- God’s reputation among people
- God’s presence revealed

The Mandate — Honoring God’s Name Through Life and Witness

This petition is not passive—it demands participation. You can’t pray “Hallowed be Your name” and live in a way that dishonors Him. We hallow God’s name when we:

- Live with integrity
- Speak with reverence
- Reflect His character in relationships
- Represent Him well in public witness

3. Worship in Action

Principle	Application
Examine Your Priorities	Do your prayers begin with worship—or with worry? Start each prayer by acknowledging God’s holiness.
Guard Your Speech	How we speak about God reveals how we see Him. Avoid casual, careless, or flippant references to His name.
Reflect God’s Character	Your life is the first place people see God’s name. Let your conduct match His character.
Honor God Publicly	Your witness—online, at work, in conflict—either hallows or profanes His name.
Worship Before Request	Make it a habit: Before I ask, I adore.

4. Discussion Questions

- What are practical ways we accidentally treat God’s name as ordinary?
- How does beginning prayer with worship change your mindset?
- How does your daily conduct shape God’s reputation to others?
- What area of your life most needs to reflect God’s holiness?
- Which attribute of God’s character helps you worship Him more deeply?

5. Closing Thoughts

As Jesus teaches us to pray, He does not begin with our needs, our fears, or our desires. He begins with God’s name. This is not accidental. It is intentional, corrective, and transformative. When we pray, “Hallowed be Your name,” we are stepping into the oldest and highest calling of humanity — to reflect the holiness of God. Before we ask God to change our circumstances, Jesus invites us to ask God to change US!

The greatest thing you bring into the world today is the name you bear — the name of your holy Father...*honor it well*. Our prayer: “Father, let Your name be honored in me today.”

Challenge for the Week: “Honor His Name Daily”

Every day this week:

- Begin prayer with worship — say one sentence about God’s holiness.
- Choose one attribute of God to meditate on each day.
- Watch your speech — refuse to use God’s name casually.
- Reflect His character in one intentional action.
- End each day with gratitude for who God is.

Bonus Material

“The Major Names of God in the Old Testament”

The names of God in the Old Testament reveal His character, His covenant, His power, His holiness, His compassion, and His relationship with His people. Each name is a window into who He is and how He works.

I. Primary Divine Names

- **Elohim** — “God,” the strong Creator; emphasizes power and sovereignty. *Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4*
- **Jehovah (Yahweh)** — God’s covenant name meaning “I AM WHO I AM,” the self-existent One. *Exodus 3:14–15; Exodus 34:6*
- **Adonai** — “Lord,” Master, Owner; emphasizes God’s authority and rule. *Genesis 15:2; Psalm 8:1*

II. Compound Names with Jehovah (“Jehovah” Titles)

- **Jehovah-Jireh** — “The LORD Will Provide.” *Genesis 22:14*
- **Jehovah-Rapha** — “The LORD Who Heals.” *Exodus 15:26*
- **Jehovah-Nissi** — “The LORD Is My Banner.” *Exodus 17:15*
- **Jehovah-Shalom** — “The LORD Is Peace.” *Judges 6:24*
- **Jehovah-Rohi** — “The LORD Is My Shepherd.” *Psalm 23:1*
- **Jehovah-Tsidkenu** — “The LORD Our Righteousness.” *Jeremiah 23:6*
- **Jehovah-Shammah** — “The LORD Is There.” *Ezekiel 48:35*
- **Jehovah-Sabaoth** — “The LORD of Hosts,” commander of heaven’s armies. *1 Samuel 1:3; Isaiah 6:3*
- **Jehovah-Mekoddishkem** — “The LORD Who Sanctifies You.” *Exodus 31:13*

III. Compound Names with Elohim

- **El-Shaddai** — “God Almighty,” the all-sufficient One. *Genesis 17:1*
- **El-Elyon** — “God Most High,” supreme over all. *Genesis 14:18–20; Psalm 97:9*
- **El-Olam** — “Everlasting God,” eternal and unchanging. *Genesis 21:33*
- **El-Roi** — “The God Who Sees Me.” *Genesis 16:13*
- **El-Gibbor** — “Mighty God,” warrior and champion. *Isaiah 9:6*

IV. Covenant and Redemptive Titles

- **God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** — The faithful covenant-keeping God. *Exodus 3:6*
- **God of Israel** — God’s national covenant identity. *Exodus 5:1; Psalm 68:35*
- **The LORD Your God** — Personal covenant relationship. *Exodus 20:2*
- **The God Who Brings You Out** — Deliverer from bondage. *Exodus 20:2; Deuteronomy 5:6*