

A Contrast in Worshipers

Points to Consider

1. The Apostles spontaneously worship Jesus
2. The scribes and Pharisees refuse to worship Jesus
3. The scribes and Pharisees worshiped God in vain

The Apostles spontaneously worship Jesus

Matt 14:22-33; Mark 6:51-52

Those in the boat worshiped when they _____ that Jesus was the Son of God. A significant element of worship is to be amazed by and _____ at who Jesus is and what He does.

Sometimes hearts are hardened so that we can't worship.

Matt 27:54 *So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" NKJV*

Based on the evidence, the centurion concluded that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

John 4:42 *Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." NKJV*

The words Jesus spoke to the Samaritans convinced them that Jesus was _____ the Christ.

Matt 14:34-36

The people of Gennesaret _____ that Jesus was able to do what no one else could do.

The Scribes and the Pharisees refuse to worship Jesus

John 9:16

The Pharisees did know where Jesus was from, and they thought He couldn't be from God because they convinced themselves that He was a _____.

John 9:35-41

True worshipers truly _____! Notice the connection between belief and worship.

John 10:31-39

The Pharisees could _____ worship Jesus because they did _____ believe that He was the Son of God.

Matt 12:22-24 *Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."* NKJV

The Pharisees thought Jesus was working hand-in-hand with the _____.

The scribes and the Pharisees worshiped God in vain

Matt 15:1-20

Vain worshipers put their traditions _____ God's commands.

By following their traditions, they _____ the commandments of God.

The Pharisees _____ the line between God's commands and their traditions so that the difference was practically indistinguishable to the bulk of the Jewish people.

We also learn from this passage that we can say and do things that **look** like worship but not be worshiping God with our hearts.

Jesus referred to the scribes and Pharisees as _____.

Jesus referred to the scribes and Pharisees as _____ people guiding blind people.

Practical Application

We must be careful that we don't become so worried about the mechanics of worship that we forget about the essence of true worship.

We must always be able to distinguish between what God commands and what our traditions are.

If we fail to know the difference, we will start teaching our traditions as God's commands.

We must never put our traditions over God's commands.