

“The heart of Jesus’ Church – a Thankful Church”

Revelation 5; Psalm 138

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Thanks Giving sermon: Sunday 9th November 2014

KIA advert

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzly2yGTk4U>

- **IS IT WORTH IT?**

You might have seen that ad before for KIA.

Did you know that a 30 second primetime ad on channel 7 will cost you around \$38,000? And the average production cost for an ad is around \$342,000! Why do companies spend so much money advertising their products?

Simple. So you’ll buy them. And how do they persuade you to buy their product? They persuade you that their product is **worthy** of your hard earned money.

That’s what we ask when we see a commercial isn’t it? Is that “worth” the money? Is it worth the dollars?

When we buy a new car – is it WORTH the money?

When we book a holiday – is it WORTH the money?

Whether we’re buying a house or a pack of toilet paper, we ask: “Is it WORTH it?”

When we watch a TV show – is it WORTH my time?

What is worthy of our money? Of our time? What is worthy of our attention?

What, or Who, is worthy of **you**?

There are a lot of worthy causes we can give to. Cancer research. Famine relief. Environmental issues. Political issues. Every day, we’re making decisions about “worthiness”.

Is my pay worth the job I do?

Is my family worthy of my time?

Is this dinner worthy of my finely tuned athletic body?!

What is worthy of you?

- **IS GOD WORTHY?**

Psalm 138 is a Psalm of thanksgiving. The write of the Psalm is King David, and he gives thanks to God for lots of things, because he believes God is WORTHY of his praise:

Verse 2: I... “will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness”

God’s love never fails. He is always faithful to us, even when we are unfaithful to him.

Verse 3: “When I called, you answered me”

God hears us. We speak and he listens. He ALWAYS hears us. He’s ALWAYS there.

Verse 6: "he looks kindly on the lowly"

God is compassionate. He knows when we're broken. He knows when we're feeling broken and defeated.

Verse 7: "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes"

God protects us. He sustains us. If he is on our side, we do not need to fear our enemies.

Verse 8: "The Lord will vindicate me"

God will vindicate us. He will justify us. Defend us. He is our witness, our judge, our maker and our defender. Even if everyone else turns against us, God will not.

Kind David gives thanks to God because God is worthy.

Why do **we** give thanks to God? Why do **we** praise him? Because he is WORTHY of our praise and thanks. He deserves it. Because there is none like him. There is no other god, no other person, **no one** who is like him. He deserves our thanks and praise.

Yet, where do we often direct our thanks and praise? What are the things that we make WORTHY of our attention? Where do we spend our time? Our money? The way we live reflects what we think is WORTHY of us.

- **III – THE SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE.**

One of the great stories in Australian history is about the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. March 19th, 1932. The bridge took 1400 men 8 years to build and cost \$4.2 million. A lot of money at the time.

- The bridge was to be opened by the NSW Premier, Jack Lang. As he was about to cut the ribbon, [Captain Francis De Groot](#) rode in on his horse and slashed the ribbon with his sword. Captain De Groot was detained, the ribbon was tied back together, and the Premier then **officially** cut the ribbon.

Why did he do it? De Groot didn't believe Lang was WORTHY to open the bridge. He believed that the bridge was so significant that it should only be officially opened by a member of the royal family!

You may think De Groot was a bit of a lunatic (although he was tested for mental illness and cleared!). But here is a man who thought about worthiness and acted on it. Do WE seriously think about worthiness?

Do we think about who or what is worthy of our time and resources each day? When we receive our pay each month, do we think: "What is worth spending this money on?" At the start of a week, do we ask: "What is worth spending my time on this week?"

And let me ask: Does God enter into our thoughts? Do we make God worthy of being in our lives each day?

- **IS GOD WORTHY?**

Let's turn to Revelation chapter 5. This chapter gives us a glimpse into the end of the world and the return of Jesus. The apostle John wrote Revelation- it was a vision given to him by God. And in chapter 5, John sees a scroll. This scroll contains a glimpse of the world's future and end. Chapter 6 tells us that the scroll shows the world's future is a future of violence and war, injustice, suffering, death and persecution. And then the world will see the wrath, judgment and justice of God.

Then in chapter 8, the seventh seal of the scroll is opened and reveals that there is MORE beyond this world. There is judgement and then there is eternity. There will be a new creation where God's people will live with him forever.

But the question we have back here in chapter 5 is this: "Who is worthy to **open** the scroll?" In other words, who is the King over the future? Who is in control of this world and what lies ahead? Who is powerful over it? Verse 3:

- *3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.*

John wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll to reveal God's future for the world. And then, verse 6:

- *6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

Here is a lamb. It looks like it's been slaughtered. Slain. It's 7 horns signify great power. It's seven eyes signify its wisdom over all the earth. And this lamb takes the scroll.

The lamb, of course, is Jesus. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb who was slaughtered for the sins of the world.

And what a mixed image that is. 7 horns of power. 7 eyes of wisdom. Yet he is a slaughtered lamb. Not a powerful image. Yet he has ALL the power. Including the power to open the scroll and reveal the destiny of the world.

And in verse 8, the 4 living creatures and the 24 elders, which represent in John's vision the people of God, sing these words:

- *"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation."*

This is a vision of God's people recognising the worthiness of the lamb, Jesus, to hold our future in his hands. And then John hears over 100 million angels singing – verse 12:

- *"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*

The whole heavens and earth sing praise to Jesus as the one who is worthy – the one who is powerful over this world, powerful over our future, powerful over eternity.

Who is worthy? “The lamb **who was slain**”

Why is he worthy? **Because** he was slain, and with his blood, he purchased people for God. He PAID the price of our sin. He BOUGHT us back from death.

Jesus, the lamb, is worthy, because he bought us.

- **III – Remembrance Day**

November 11th, in two days time, is remembrance day. We remember and give thanks for those who have laid down their life for this country. Every Australian soldier who has died in war has given their life FOR YOU and for me. They are worthy of remembering, they are worthy of our thanks and praise **because they died for us**. And why did they die for us? Because they believed that WE, and this country, were WORTH dying for.

- **Jesus is worthy of our praise**

How much more for us, as Christians, should we remember, and give thanks and praise, to Jesus. He is WORTHY of our praise because he died for us. He died for us because he believed we were WORTH dying for.

Do we comprehend that? **Jesus thought YOU were WORTH dying for. YOU are WORTH Jesus' blood.** Surely, then, he is WORTHY of our praise and thanks! Surely we want to join those voices singing “Jesus, you are worthy, because you purchased me, you bought me with your blood. You paid the price to deliver me from death and sin and hell.”

- **IS JESUS WORTHY?**

If we believe Jesus is **worthy** of our praise, then how will we **live**? If God has found you WORTHY of saving, how will you **respond**? Is he worthy of your praise and thanks? Is he worthy of your time? Is he worthy of your money? Is he worthy of your life? Is he worthy?

Yes. He is.

Let's pray.

Lord God, how we long to join in the words of the angels around your throne in heaven on that great final day of judgement:

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”*

Lord, how we long to live as people who are worthy of your blood shed on the cross. How we long to live, and give our lives to the one who found us worthy of saving. Help us to show our thankfulness to you in all that we do, and with all that we have. Amen.

Revelation 5

5 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. **2** And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" **3** But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. **4** I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. **5** Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. **8** And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

9 And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

10

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. **12** In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!"

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!"

14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Psalms 138

Of David.

1 I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
before the "gods" I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree
that it surpasses your fame.

3 When I called, you answered me;
you greatly emboldened me.

- 4** May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,
when they hear what you have decreed.
- 5** May they sing of the ways of the Lord,
for the glory of the Lord is great.
- 6** Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.
- 7** Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.
- 8** The Lord will vindicate me;
your love, Lord, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands.