



Church of Christ

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Heart to Heart...

King Uzziah was a powerful and beloved king of Israel. Other nations praised him and his power in war could not be surpassed. What did Israel have to fear? Take time and read II Chronicles 26. Enjoying the security and comfort of their leader, Israel took their ease. Suddenly, it hit! It always happens at the most secure time in peoples lives. King Uzziah grew proud in his heart. He thought he could violate God Himself! He was **Athe king** and decided he would approach God in his own way to burn incense to the Lord. One of God's holy men, Azariah the priest, opposed the king along with eighty priests who were valiant themselves. Pride blinds and leads to hurtful results, ALWAYS! The king would not listen and wanted to offer God what he wanted. The words rang out, **AGet out of the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful, and will have no honor from the Lord God.** (II Chron. 26:18) It enraged King Uzziah and he was determined to worship the Lord as he wanted. How dare someone say to this mighty king, *You will have no honor from the Lord God!* The Lord, the God of heaven and earth, definitely had something to say! The offender, the proud and arrogant king of Israel, had leprosy break out on his forehead and he was hurried out of God's presence. The tragedy? This beloved, great and powerful leader died as a leper, an outcast from the rest of mankind and cut off from the house of the Lord.

In the year of King Uzziah's death, Isaiah had an encounter with Jehovah. Read Isaiah 6. He saw THE KING on His throne and heard the words ring out, **AHoly, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts.** (Isa. 6:3) Isaiah saw the majesty of God, His holiness and he trembled before Him.

When we worship God, what are we wanting to accomplish? Self will worship? Worship that is directed to making us feel good? Who decides what worship is acceptable and unacceptable? Isn't worship about God Himself?

Worship is about holiness! The holiness of God and approaching Him in holiness. It's not about self will or self maintained! Nadab and Abihu tried it and it cost them their lives. **ABy those who come near Me I will be treated as holy and before all the people I will be honored.** (Lev. 10:3) God is the One and only One that will declare what is acceptable and unacceptable. To approach God in holiness means there will be no unrighteousness in worshiping Him or there will be allowance in His presence!

Worship is not about a **Afeel good** atmosphere. It's not about trying to move people into an emotional hype! It's about fear of the Lord and reverence for His holy name. When one comes to forgiveness through the death of Jesus, their heart is cleansed (holy) and they respond in that holiness. Worship will come from their heart and is uncreated by man. Start from the beginning of the Bible to the end and see when people are cleansed and brought to salvation, worship automatically takes place. They offer to God what God wants. You see it in Abraham, Noah, David, the leper Jesus healed, the 3000 baptized, the Ethiopian Eunuch and the list goes on. When man decides to offer worship by trying to create an atmosphere or enthusiasm, it's not heart worship but will worship. The holiness of God is lost and the shift becomes us. Are we going to hear, **A...and you will have no honor from the Lord God.**? Think about it!!!

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