



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Matthew 14–28 Sermon Series

Supports Session 6: Our Task

Sermon Title: “Worthy is the Lamb” (Revelation 5:8-14)

Connection to Session 6

It is Easter Sunday! Though preaching Matthew 28 is “out of order” from the flow of the book, it is worth focusing on the resurrection this Sunday. Some may ask, “Why the focus on Easter? Don’t we celebrate the resurrection every week?” A good response can be, “A good husband tells his wife he loves her every day. But it’s worth going the extra mile on their anniversary!” In the same way, Christians do celebrate Jesus’s resurrection every Sunday but should be excited for the extra focus on this particular Lord’s Day.

Revelation 5:8-14 gives a scene from the throne room of Heaven. It shows the end result of the Great Commission. Believers need to be reminded that the Great Commission will be accomplished in a future day. The gospel will be triumphant, and it will be shared with every people and nation. Christians must remember that the Great Commission is an invitation to join in with God’s redemptive plan, and that our task will be completed one day.

Introduction/Opening

One of the great experiences of traveling is being exposed to different cultures and customs. Different people groups have different food, clothing, and customs. Even in America, different states and even neighboring cities can reflect a variety of people and practices! Together, each of these languages and peoples reflect God’s handiwork as they together express the creative work of God. Different cultures express a beautiful kaleidoscope of God’s handiwork in the lives of people.

In a future day, people from every tribe and tongue and nation will be gathered together in heaven to worship the risen Christ. This is good news! The gospel is not for one culture, time, or people. Rather, it is for all cultures, all eras of human history, and all peoples. This Easter Sunday we are reminded of the good news of redemption for people from every culture!

Outline

Worship at the Throne (Revelation 5:8-10)

This three-tiered worship scene begins at the throne of God and then expands to include all of creation. Easley observes, “At the beginning of verse 8, the ‘camera’ of John’s attention begins to pull back. We gradually move out, like an increasingly wide-angle lens.”¹

The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders have a harp and golden bowls. These bowls are filled with the prayers of the saints, and they are before the throne of God. The prayers and petitions of believers are in the very presence of the Lord! Think of all the prayers and hopes of

¹ Kendell H. Easley, *Revelation*, vol. 12, *Holman New Testament Commentary* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), 93.

believers throughout all time, coming into God's presence and being answered by the Almighty. All our hopes will be realized in Christ's victory!

The worship at the throne centers on three aspects of Christ's redemptive work:

1. First, Christ is worthy because he paid the *unequaled price*. The CSB uses the graphic term "slaughtered" (v. 9) in speaking of Christ's death. Like a sacrificial lamb, Jesus was slain as a substitute for sin.
2. Second, Christ is worthy because of the *unequaled extent* of His work. He has purchased people from every corner of the earth. No other savior could redeem the entire spectrum of the human race! Though today we have a greater understanding of human cultures than in John's day, we still have a limited understanding of all peoples and cultures. Yet one day, the Great Commission will be completed and all nations will worship Christ!
3. Third, Christ gives the *ultimate reward*. Jesus not only forgives sinners but makes them a kingdom and priests to God. Rather than receiving judgment, all those redeemed by the lamb will reign with the Savior!

Worship from the Angelic Realm (Revelation 5:11-12)

Verses 11-12 center on the worship within the angelic realm. These heavenly hosts praise the Lamb for His victory! Though we are in a modern, materialistic age, we must not forget there are spiritual forces at work. Angels and demons are real, and there is a spiritual battle going on even now that humans cannot see. These verses show that Jesus is not only victorious over the earth, but through His resurrection He has overcome the cosmic forces of darkness. Jesus is Lord of the church, and Lord of the spiritual realm.

Because of His resurrection, Jesus is worthy to receive all worship. This is echoed by "countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands" (v. 11). This is a way of saying, "an uncountable number." Even the countless hosts of mighty angels bow in awe before the risen Lord!

Worship from All Creation (Revelation 5:13-14)

Verse 13 speaks to every created thing. It is worth noting that John cannot see all of these things – they are beyond visual description! However, he hears their worship of the Lamb from every corner of creation. As John gives a panorama of the worship to Christ in all creation, he is also giving a depiction of Jesus being worshipped across all time. The timeline expressed in this praise is for Jesus's worship from start to finish. In Revelation 4, the creatures and elders worship God the Father. Then in chapter 5, the perspective changes to focus specifically on God the Son—Lord Jesus Christ—and his willing sacrifice for sinners. Revelation 5:13-14 express a future day when all creation will submit to Jesus as Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).

The worship centers on the one "seated on the throne," speaking of God the Father, and "to the Lamb" (v. 13), speaking of Jesus Christ. It is unmistakable from this passage that Jesus is fully divine. He is worthy of eternal worship and eternal praise.

Application Points:

- *Jesus is worthy of your worship.* As truly divine and the recipient of worship from all creation, Jesus is worthy of worship. One day you will stand before Him; believe today!
- *Jesus is worthy of your trust.* No matter what spiritual opposition you face, Jesus is victorious over spiritual forces. Are you trusting Him with your daily life? Rely on Him!

- *Jesus is worthy of your devotion.* The heavenly scene includes people from every nation. This occurs because Christians are obedient to the Great Commission. Commit to participating in Jesus' divine mission to redeem all people by sending or going.

Conclusion

Christ is risen! Christians, celebrate as triumphant people! If you do not know Christ, come to Him today as the only worthy Savior. No matter your background, Jesus can save you!

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