

Authenticity in Our Worship
Isaiah 58:1-9a

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

1. There is a word that we often use to describe someone who says that something is important but they don't live that way themselves. It can be a harsh word.
2. As one reads through the scriptures, it's easy to find people who weren't very genuine.
3. If you were to go out and ask someone what the term "worship" means, you probably would get a variety of answers.
4. In **Isaiah 58**, the prophet deals with the question of worship. Isaiah points to some of the keys in understanding the meaning of true worship.

I. They Practiced Vain Worship. Isaiah 58:1-5

- A. Consider the context of this passage. (**Isaiah 58:2**)
 1. **"For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways."** (**Isaiah 58:2**)
- B. God did not respond to their hypocrisy.
- C. So God exposed their hypocrisy. (**Isaiah 58:4**)
 1. **"You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high."** (**Isaiah 58:4**)

II. We Are To Practice True Worship. Isaiah 58:6-9a

- A. God deals with the problem of worship.
- B. God expected Repentance.
- C. God expects Reverence.
- D. God is concerned with our Relationships.
- E. God expects us to take Responsibility.

III. What Does This Mean For Us Today?

- A. Often we ask the question, "Why isn't worship working?"
- B. Our lives may be the real problem.