

#TargetPractice: Who is God?

- Creator of the heavens, earth, and everything in them (including us)
- More awesome, powerful, greater than any being
- Provided us with all we need/have (air to breathe, sunshine, home, food, clothes, family, friends...)
- HOLY (set apart from anything sinful or evil...special treasure)

Read how David describes God (1 Chronicles 29:10-14)

10 David praised the Lord in front of all of the people who were gathered. He said:

"We praise you, Lord.

You are the God of our father Israel.

We praise you forever and ever.

11 Lord, you are great and powerful.

You have glory, victory and honor.

Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to you.

The kingdom belongs to you, Lord.

You are the ruler over everything.

12 Riches and honor come from you.

You rule everything.

You have the power and strength

to make anyone great and strong.

13 Now, our God, we thank you.

And we praise your glorious name.

14 "These things did not really come from me and my people.

Everything comes from you.

We have given you back what you gave us.

Based on all we have said God is: How should we treat God? (respect and honor)

How would you feel if someone gave you a dirty beat up old toy for Christmas?

Read Malachi 1:6-14

6 The Lord of heaven's armies says, "A son honors his father. A servant honors his master. I am a father. So why don't you honor me? I am a master. So why don't you respect me? You priests do not respect me.

"But you ask, 'How have we shown you disrespect?'

7 "You have shown it by bringing unclean sacrifices to my altar.

"But you ask, 'What makes them unclean?'

"They are unclean because you don't show respect for my altar. 8 You bring blind animals as sacrifices, and that is wrong. You bring crippled and sick animals. That is wrong. Try giving them to your governor. Would he be pleased with you? He wouldn't accept you," says the Lord of heaven's armies.

9 "Now ask God to be kind to you. But he won't accept you with such offerings," says the Lord of heaven's armies.

10 "I wish one of you would close the Temple doors. Then you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you. I will not accept your gifts," says the Lord of heaven's armies. 11 "From the east to the west I will be

honored among the nations. Everywhere they will bring incense and clean offerings to me. I will be honored among the nations,” says the Lord of heaven’s armies.

12 “But you don’t honor me. You say about the Lord’s altar, ‘It is unclean. The food has no worth.’ 13 You say, ‘We are tired of doing this.’ And you sniff at it in disgust,” says the Lord of heaven’s armies.

“And you bring hurt, crippled and sick animals. You bring them as gifts. But I won’t accept them from you,” says the Lord. 14 “The cheat will be cursed. He has an animal in his flock. He promises to offer it. But then he offers me an animal that has something wrong with it. I am a great king,” says the Lord of heaven’s armies. “I am feared by all the nations.

The priests gave less than perfect sacrifices to God, showing God was not worth their best.

We don’t do sacrifices like they did in the Old Testament, so how can we show respect and honor to God?

- Verbally acknowledge who God is (like in 1 Chronicles 29:10-14)
- Give our best
 - Time
 - Generosity
 - Attention (focus on Him instead of other things in worship, message, prayer)
 - Respect and show honor to His creation (nature and others)

How do you think God feels when you don’t show respect to Him or His creation? (imagine working hard on making something only for someone to destroy it)

Our Father who is in Heaven,

You are Holy and worthy to be praised.

Sometimes we don’t always stop and recognize who You are and the respect that You deserve.

Just because we can’t physically see You, doesn’t mean we should act like You aren’t there.

Please help us to “be still and know You are God”.

Help us to behave in a way that shows You honor.

Help us to keep our focus on You during times of worship.

In Jesus’s name,

Amen