

Worship: Loving God

Kathie Lee Gifford was raised in a Messianic Jewish home where she accepted Jesus at 12 years old. After college, she began a career in television with *Regis and Kathie Lee* propelling her to fame. In her recent book *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi*, Kathie shares about a life-changing trip to Israel she took with her husband Frank, in April, 2012. At the Valley of Elah, where David killed Goliath, Frank's faith went from a religion to a relationship with Jesus.

Three Blessings of Genuine, Heartfelt Worship:

1. _____(Joy)

- a. *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.' Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem."* Psalm 122:1-2. As the temple brought the Jewish people great joy, the loss of their temple was devastating. Today the Western Wall, the only surviving remnant of the temple complex, is the most famous landmark in Israel.
- b. The temple was destroyed 37 years after Jesus' ascension. June 7, 1967 marked the first time in 2000 years that the Jewish people once again controlled the temple complex, which filled them with hope and dreams of its reconstruction.
- c. Some scholars believe the Garden of Eden was located on the same land as the temple mount. Just as the temple filled God's people with joy, so did the Garden of Eden with God *"walking...in the cool of the day"* (Genesis 3:8). In Revelation 21:3-4, we have a picture of paradise regained, when *"the dwelling of God is with men...he will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

2. _____(Unity)

- a. *"Jerusalem – built as a city that is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord."* Psalm 122:3-4. Jerusalem was designed by God to bring people together with God and with each other.
- b. At Mount Moriah (1880 BC), Abraham was commanded by God to sacrifice his son. Once the Lord saw Abraham's obedience, He provided a substitute, a lamb, which was sacrificed in Isaac's place. King David captured this same mountain in 1050 BC, and his son Solomon built a temple there. The people celebrated the atonement of their sins for fourteen days (I Kings 8:66).
- c. When God's people were disobedient, He allowed the Babylonians to destroy their temple in 586 BC. Seventy years later, the Jewish people rebuilt their temple and celebrated for seven days (Ezra 6:22). Once again they had a place where their sins could be atoned (atone = "at one").

3. _____(Peace)

- a. Shalom, the Hebrew word for peace, refers to completeness, wholeness, well-being, and harmony. *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you! Peace be within your walls and security within your towers! For my brothers and companions sake I will say, ‘Peace be within you. For the sake of the house of the Lord, I will seek your good.” Psalm 122:6-9.*
- b. Jerusalem, the ‘city of peace’, has been attacked 52 times, captured and recaptured 44 times, besieged 23 times, and totally destroyed twice. In Luke 19:37, Jesus approached the city with a large crowd hailing him as king. They saw him as the Prince of Peace prophesied in Isaiah 9:6. Then he stunned by weeping over Jerusalem and predicting its destruction (Luke 19:42).
- c. In 66 AD, the Roman legions laid siege to Jerusalem, leveling the city and burning the temple in 70 AD. 1.1 million died. Those who trusted in Jesus found peace with God, a peace that came courtesy of a cross.
- d. At 9 am, April 3, 33 AD, Jesus was nailed to a cross at the same time the Passover lambs were bound. At 3 pm, Jesus died, at the same time the Passover lambs were slaughtered. At this exact moment, the temple veil was torn in two with the inner sanctum of God’s presence exposed.
- e. Jesus died as your Passover lamb, a once-for-all atonement for sin. The temple is no longer needed as you can go directly into the presence of God the Father courtesy of Christ’s sacrifice. By placing your faith in Jesus, your sins are forgiven and peace with God is restored!

On Sunday morning, August 9, 2015, Kathie Lee Gifford came down her stairway ready to go to church only to find her husband Frank lying on his back, with coffee spilled around him. His eyes were wide open, as if he suddenly saw something amazing. He did. Frank saw Jesus and Jesus took his breath away! Are you able to worship Jesus even in times of great loss (Job 1:21)?