

TITLE: The Value of Recognizing God's Presence, part 2
TEXT: John 4:7-26
PREACHED AT: Castine 10-10-21
MAIN POINT: The response to recognizing God's presence
SERMON SERIES: Castine's Values

INTRODUCTION

1. The Bible is clear that God makes Himself known and wants His followers to recognize His presence.
 - 1.1. Hebrews 1:1-2, "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world."
 - 1.2. John 16:13, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

DISCUSSION

1. (John 4:7-26) "7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

2. If you want to recognize God's presence, growing in worship is important to you. "The Father is seeking such people to worship Him, v. 23."
 - 2.1. Worship is much more than your musical preference.
3. Worship begins in your spirit. (See 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and Hebrews 4:12 for the breakdown of the soul and spirit). Jesus taught this in John 3:1-15, especially 3:6, "that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." He refers to the new birth of the human spirit by the Holy Spirit. This rebirth enables someone (although flawed) to live with the mind of Jesus (1 Corinthians 2:16).
 - 3.1. John 4:24, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."
 - 3.2. To worship in spirit and truth begins with salvation (in spirit) and is offered through Jesus (in truth). Therefore, only those who have a renewed spirit can worship, and this worship is through Jesus, who John says is the truth (John 14:6) in alignment with the Bible (John 17:17), which communicates the mind of Jesus.
4. The increased recognition of God's presence develops in the practice of sanctification.
 - 4.1. Jesus says, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)
 - 4.2. Hebrews 10:14, says, for by a single offering [Jesus] has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."
5. Help in the practice of worship that enhances the recognition of God's presence.
 - 5.1. A helpful starting point is an honest survey of your concern to reflect God in your life.
 - 5.1.1. Do you worship God in your leisure?
 - 5.1.2. Do you worship God in your attitude toward those with whom you disagree?
 - 5.1.3. Do you worship God in your thoughts?
 - 5.1.4. Do you worship God in your business deals?
 - 5.1.5. Do you worship God in your marriage?
 - 5.1.6. Do you worship God in your parenting?
 - 5.1.7. Do you worship God in your social media posts?
 - 5.1.8. Do you worship God with the handling of your money?
 - 5.1.9. Do you worship God at sporting events?
 - 5.1.10. Do you worship God in your farming?

5.1.11. Do you worship God in your commitments?

5.1.12. Do you worship God in your vows (baptismal, child dedication)?

5.1.13. Do you worship God with your words?