

The Need for Revival:
True Worship

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley
Sunday, March 19, 2023

Jesus is leaving Judea and going to Galilee via Samaria. He and His disciples come to a well where Jesus would take a rest while His disciples went into the city to buy some food. A Samaritan woman arrives at the well where she encounters Jesus. She is shocked at the fact that Jesus engages in conversation with her because she is a Samaritan and He is a Jew. In the process of the conversation, Jesus reveals things which He knows about her life even though this is the first time they had ever met.

John 4:19–24 (NASB95)¹⁹The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain (Mt. Gerizim), and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

After Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel, they exported many of the Jews to other distant territories which they had taken under their control. Then they took the people of those territories and imported them into Israel (a strategic sort of people swapping).

These new settlers brought their gods and forms of worship with them. Not long after they were there, they developed a lion problem. Lions had migrated into the civilian areas and had began to attack and kill the people. Those acting as leaders perceived these attacks to be the result of the angry God of the land so they sent message to Assyria, and they sent a priest back to Israel to teach the people there how to worship the God of the Jews. The result was a blend of diverse gods and worship.

Therefore, the Samaritans worshipped what they didn't know. However, the Jews were God's chosen people. They had been given the oracles of God. They had the tabernacle in the wilderness and the temple In Jerusalem where God had chosen to put His name. It was the place ordained by God for true worship. Truly salvation was of the Jews.

Here, to this Samaritan woman, Jesus declares a new form of worship. “An hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father, but an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. Therefore, worship has nothing to do with geography or building. Worship acceptable to God has everything to do with spirit and truth.

For us to worship God in truth, we must know God in truth; we must know the truth about God; what is acceptable to God.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

What is worship? The answer goes way beyond singing in church. All who are in Christ live a life of worship to unto the Lord.

To worship God in spirit, we must be born of the Spirit (the Spirit of God). In Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman, He spoke of “Living Water” that He could give if she knew who He was. This living water represents the life from the Holy Spirit that “Springs up to eternal life.”

When we are born again, God gives us His Spirit Who witnesses with our spirit. His Spirit and our spirit are united with a divine connection. Like Paul, we serve the Lord with our spirit. God is exalted within our hearts and innermost being. **WORSHIP PUTS AND KEEPS GOD AT THE CENTER!**

We worship God in the beauty of holiness.

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

(this requires our minds to be renewed by the word of God)

We worship God in prayer through praise, thanksgiving, and adoration! Our prayers are offered in faith. Faith in God's sovereignty; love; faithfulness; and mercy. How do we pray?

(We must pray in faith. We pray for His will to be done. We desire for that which He desires.)

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

We worship God in giving. We acknowledge and recognize Him for His provision; returning to Him a portion of all He has given us. (God's word teaches us about what is true giving)

Genesis 28:20–22 ... “and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

We worship God corporately in the preaching, teaching, and learning of His word and through spiritual hymns and singing!

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Here singing is directly connected to the word of God. Our worship must be doctrinally correct. Worship must be God-centered for God is the object of our worship.

There is a vast difference between worship and entertainment.

- Worship aligns all focus upon God / Entertainment focuses upon the entertainer.
- Worship appeals to the spirit (edification) / entertainment appeals to the flesh.
- Worship is for the acceptance of God / entertainment is for the acceptance of man.

Psalms 150:3–6 ³Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. ⁴Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe. ⁵Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals. ⁶Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

Psalms 100:1–2,4 ¹Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. ²Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

Worshipping God comes natural to the spirit-filled life. It is contagious to the hungry and thirsty soul. Worship itself, can be evangelistic, in that, they may desire to drink from the well of living water.

Acts 2:46–47 ⁴⁶Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

John 4:14 “Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”