

The Practice of Worship

Worship is one of the most central practices of the Christian faith, yet it is often misunderstood or reduced to a moment, place, or a style of music. In this message, we turn to Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman in John 4, where He redefines what true worship really is. Rather than focusing on geography, tradition, or performance, Jesus reveals that worship flows from knowing who God is, responding to what He has done, and allowing that response to shape how we live. Our teaching today invites us to see worship not as something we simply do on occasion, but as a way of life formed by truth, gratitude, and obedience before God.

John 4:19-26 – *The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and yet you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship." Jesus said to her, "Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, 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." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am He, the One speaking to you."*

WHAT WORSHIP IS NOT

1. Worship is not about the place

Additional Scriptures: John 4:20-21, Acts 17:24-25, 1 Kings 8:27, Malachi 1:11

2. Worship is not about personal preference

Additional Scriptures: Isaiah 29:13, Amos 5:21-23, Colossians 2:20-23, 1 Samuel 16:7

3. Worship is not about religious performance

Additional Scriptures: Matthew 6:1-6 & 15:7-9, Luke 18:9-14, Micah 6:6-7, Isaiah 1:11-15

WHAT WORSHIP IS

1. Worship is rooted in who God is

Additional Scriptures: John 4:23-24, Psalm 96:4-5, Isaiah 6:1-3, Revelation 4:8-11

2. Worship is responding to what God has done

Additional Scriptures: Exodus 15:1-2, Psalm 40:1-3 & 103:1-5, Revelation 5:9-12

3. Worship is expressed through how we live

Additional Scriptures: Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:16-17, Hebrews 13:15-16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you think about God, what picture or assumptions most naturally come to mind—and how do those shape the way you approach Him in worship?
2. Think about a time when worship felt meaningful, alive, or sincere to you. What was happening in your life or heart that made that possible—and what tends to erode that posture over time?
3. If someone were to observe your everyday decisions, habits, and priorities, what would they conclude about what you value most?