

Worship That Pleases God

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So if a pastor wants to get in a lot of trouble, there are some subjects that he can bring up and that's what He's going to get. Like uh predestination, that'll do it. Uh, back in 2017, we lost over a hundred people in one weekend, when the text I was preaching on from Galatians 1 just happened to hint at predestination. So that was fun. There's marriage and divorce, that's another one, get in a lot of trouble doing that, or there's eschatology, people get fired up about that one. But there's one that when pastors talk about it, people have the hardest time being objective and even charitable. It arouses deep passions, and those passions can get ugly quick. People will break membership in a local church over this issue, it's that important to some. Others, they will not give a church a second chance if this one thing isn't to their liking. For some, it is essential, like disagreeing with this is equivalent to disagreeing on the Trinity or the Bible being the Word of God. What am I talking about? Have you guessed? It's the issue of worship, what takes place in a service like this one. But for most worship really breaks down to the 15 minutes of the style, the sound and the quality of the music. Pastors get fired for this, churches split over this, friends separate, and church members never see each other again over this issue, worship.

Denominations have started and have their distinction compared to other denominations based on worship. This is so bad, it even has a name in church literature. It's called worship wars, worship wars, like people going to war over worshipping God. So if I tell you that the Jewish people and the Samaritan people of Jesus' day had a bitter disagreement about worship, that's not all that strange. Those weirdos back then, no, no, no, that's true right now. And we know what this is like. In the middle of Jesus' conversation with this Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, it's not a surprise that the subject of worship came up because the worship war between the Jews and the Samaritans went back twice as long as our country has existed. For 500 years, they were at odds with this.

Now, before we get into all of that, let's remember what's been happening in John 4. Jesus is traveling from the south to the north. And in order to get to the north He's got to go through the middle of Israel, which is Samaria, that's where the Samaritan people live. The Jews and the Samaritans have historic cultural, ethnic, religious, and theological reasons for not liking each other. Why? Well, in short, the Samaritans were half-Jewish because they intermarried with a bunch of non-Jewish people and God said, do not do that because if you do that, they're going to take you away from me, and that's exactly what happened with the Samaritans. They created their own religion; and that religion was only okay with the first five books of the Bible and the rest of it, we don't agree with, which means that they rejected the Temple in Jerusalem, they rejected everything about it, they rejected Jerusalem as the city of God, they they rejected the Temple Mount, they said we have our own temple, it's called Gerizim. We have our own priests,

our own sacrifices, because that Jewish religion down there in Jerusalem, all of that is heresy. We've got the true religion. And the Jerusalem like, No, no, no, we have the true religion and you guys are heretics. By Jesus' time, these two people groups hated each other. Most Jews would go around Jerusalem. If they had to get to the north, they would take one to two roads around Samaria so they wouldn't even have to put their feet in that in that heretical place. Chapter 4, verse 3, it says, Jesus what? "Had to pass through Samaria," and that's because He had an appointment with this particular woman at this particular well. This woman is an outcast, that's why she's there at noon, which is the hottest part of the day. Usually you'd go in the morning or at night or both. And that's why she's there by herself. The other women likely wanted nothing to do with her, and that's because of her sin. Five failed marriages, which probably all of it wasn't her fault, but also a live-in boyfriend. She's an adulterer and a fornicator, who's playing a house with a man she's not married to, and he may have still been married when they were living together.

So she is an outcast in every possible way, she is the lowest of the low, and the one who came from heaven came specifically to her that day. There were a ton of reasons for Jesus, the Holy Son of God, not to talk to her and yet He does because chapter 4, verse 42 says that He is what? "He is the Savior of the world." He's not just the Savior for the Jews, He's not just the Savior for that that group of people. No, we're seeing here that there is no one that is too religiously, ethnically, socially, culturally, morally, or theologically lost that Jesus can't save them. This woman is the great example of the truth, that if Jesus will save her, He will save what? He'll save anybody. We praise Him for that. So Jesus invites her to eternal life, He exposes her sin, and she knows after He's a little too specific about her sin, that He's got a little bit too much information that He never should have had as somebody who's never been here before. It might be something special about Him. Verse 19, "the woman said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.'" Now, by saying that, she is admitting that what He just said about her is true. She is admitting her guilt. There is conviction of her sin that is weighing on her conscience. The mockery that she was doing earlier, she's not doing that anymore. Clarity about this guy, the the picture is starting to get more clear in her mind as to who this guy is. And in fact, the Samaritans only recognize two prophets, Moses and the Messiah and that was it. They reject the rest of the Old Testaments, so so Isaiah and Jeremiah, those guys are not prophets to the Samaritans. It's just Moses the Messiah. Well, Moses's been dead for a while, so if she's calling Him the Messiah, she may be going, hey this, she may be saying, are you the Messiah? She's not sure though.

In verse 20, she says, "Our Father's worshiped on this mountain, but you say in Jerusalem is the place where we ought to worship." That kind of sounds like she's changing the subject like, whew, talking about my sin. I don't like this, hey, I got a theology question for you. Theological rabbit trail, maybe that'll work on this theologian. I don't think that's what she's doing though. I think she's just she's being drawn to what Jesus is Saying and going, Okay, if what you're saying is true, this is a big jump for me because I'm a Samaritan. There is a 500-year long theological feud going on and it is about something central worship. So she's like, where should we worship? Are the Jews right? Are the Samaritans right? This is the most controversial thing she could have

asked Him, and Jesus' answer only adds to the controversy. What she is saying here, she's going, Okay, I'm hearing all, I'm talking to a Jewish man, she's asking for clarity because if He's right, there are implications for her, right? She would have to reject her religion, her culture, her theology and her history on the one hand, and on the other hand, she'd have to align herself with her historical and religious enemies. Are the Jews right? Have we been wrong this whole time? What's the truth about worship? And to be the Savior of the world, Jesus has to deal with the issue of worship. Why? Because you worship, is a universal phenomenon. We are worshiping creatures. That might be the fundamental thing that separates us from all other beings on the planet, is that we worship. We spend much of our lives worshipping, we cannot help but worship. And what Jesus is going to say here is so fundamentally offensive to our culture, that I'm telling you now just buckle up because there's something in here to offend everyone, because He's going to clarify that there is such a thing as true worship, which means what? That means there's also something as false worship. And He doesn't stutter when He explains there is worship that pleases God, there's worship that is acceptable to God, which means there is worship that is what? Unacceptable to God. God does not accept everything humanity does under the banner of worship. And Jesus is the reason why I would say that. He is clear on this subject in the rest of our text.

Now, to take a step back, if we lived in the days of Shakespeare, we would not have used the word worship because that word didn't exist yet. We would've said "worthship", 'worthship", the ascribing of worth, honor, value, excellence, to something. Aren't you glad they took the -the off and smashed the words there together to make the word 'worship'? So worshipping God is ascribing worth to him. Worship is a celebration of God's worth to you, which is far more than singing right? Romans 12:1 really says all of life is worship when it says, "present your bodies as living sacrifices, holy acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." In other words, in light of all that God did to save you from eternal hell for your sins, in light of all of His mercy towards you, the logical response to that is to demonstrate His worth to you in your body, by living for Him and not yourself, by denying yourself in order to live for Him, by doing what He wants instead of you want. That's that's how you are a living sacrifice, you're sacrificing you in order to have something better, which is living for Christ. That's worship.

So we can find the word "worship" to the song portion of a church service, but you worship without singing all the time. When your decisions, your actions say, Jesus is worth more to me than fill in the blank, that's worship too. Yes, it's in the songs where we proclaim His worth and His honor and His excellence, but it's also in the choice you make to stay married, to not steal from your job, to not cheat on a test, to not gossip and slander. It's how you listen to a sermon, it's how you respond to the sermon, it's how you live for Christ in your life. That and a thousand other things, that's worship. However, under that huge banner called worship, all of life, there is this subsection called What Takes Place in a Church Service, and that's what this text is about. Worship wars abound in our day and in Jesus' day. So Jesus is going to clarify the kind of worship that pleases God, He's going to give us six clarifying truths about worship that pleases

God, six facts, six certainties, six realities about the kind of worship that God accepts, which by implication means the kind of worship that God does not accept.

So this is worship according to Jesus, point #1) ***Worship that pleases God is about faith, not place. It's about faith, not place.*** It's about trust, not location. Notice how Jesus responds to her, verse 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.'" Now let me just say this first off, the word "woman" sounds to us like He's being disrespectful, but that's not true. A better translation of this word might be something like Ma'am or Madam, it is a term of respect and even endearment. Remember, in chapter 2, He used this word to talk to who? His mom. So this is a term of endearment, even respect, which means He's not reprimanding her, which is why I don't think she's like, Hey, I got a theological question over here, stop talking about my sin. No, no, He's not reprimanding her, she's not trying to change the subject. And He tells her, notice, "Believe," which could be, just accept what I'm about to say, but notice it says, "Believe me," and in Greek it's, "Believe in me." So this is trust me, but should she not trust Him on this issue, worship? It has consequences other than just being on the other side of a theological debate. No, not to believe in Jesus in this moment would have her disagreeing on the topic, on the subject, as central as worshiping the one true and living God. And that's not a small thing, that's crucial. Then He answers her either/or, either this mountain or Jerusalem, He answers it with neither. So "the hour is coming when neither on this mountain" probably pointed to it, maybe, "nor in Jerusalem will you worship." Acts 17:24 is clear, God, "Does not live in temples made by man." Let me say that again. "God does not live in temples made by man." Where you worship, Jesus says, is not going to matter soon, which means with these words, Jesus does away with the idea of temples and sacred buildings being necessary for worship that pleases God.

False religion is filled with sacred locations, and buildings on that location that are sacred. And the reason they got to prop all that stuff up is because they don't have the truth. Something new is starting, Jesus is saying, and that new thing will make all sacred places, all locations, all temples obsolete, and notice in saying this, He's also hinting at a day when you don't need to travel to a certain location to worship God, because that's where He is. No, you can do that anywhere. All people will be able to worship anywhere and everywhere. All divisions of ethnicity and culture will pass away when, verse 21, "The hour comes." That hour, if you search that phrase in the book of John, the hour in John refers to Jesus' death and resurrection. He will say, as He's praying, right before He's arrested, He says, "The hour has come." It's now the time, His death and resurrection is here. Well, He's saying, when that happens, all barriers that divide us, all the things that keep us divided, including where we should worship, all of that will be torn down when we all believe in the same Jesus, the Savior of the world. And when that happens, why?

What do we know from the rest of the New Testament? We know this, that when somebody believes in Jesus, they don't need a temple, why? Because they are a temple, right?. You are temples of God, God lives inside of you if you believe in Jesus. Temples are not only unnecessary, therefore, they're actually an attack on the truth. Jesus himself here, His death and

resurrection once and for all did away with the need for temples. You don't need those anymore, why? Because you are one now. So if you're one of those people that can only worship, like, I can only worship in this place or in this location, like I can worship here, but when I go to this place, like that's really sacred, or I've got a particular time or particular posture, all this outward physical stuff, listen to me, all of that is nonsense. That's manmade, made-up tradition, preference being passed off as morality. Jesus does away with all of that right here. Worship that pleases God starts with faith, with trust in the crucified and now risen Savior, not in the physical, like the places that people worship.

Now, before leaving verse 21, let's all also notice, **#2) *Worship that pleases God is about God, not you. Worship that pleases God is about God, not you.*** It's a simple point, but it needs to be made, end of verse 21, "will you worship the Father?" In other words, simply put, worship is about worshipers proclaiming and celebrating God's worth, not God proclaiming and celebrating our worth. Worship is not about you. For worship to be worship, it can't be about you. It's not about your desires, your feelings, ideas, preferences, opinions, style, abilities, or people applauding. Many people take up religion because they think it's going to be good for them, or they do it out of fear of death. Got to make sure all my bases are covered. Still, others get religious because they think it's going to help them, or get their spouse in line, or make their kids like get going in the right direction. It was good for me growing up, so it'll be good for them too. Others get religious because they think that's going to win some brownie points with God. The common denominator in all of that is what? It's you. None of that is worship. Worship, that hopes to "get something out of it" is not about God. If you give someone a gift for what you get out of it, you didn't really give the gift, right? Well, you gave the gift, but you just gave it to who? Yourself. That was about you. Worship is about getting away from you, for the only one that matters, the only one who's truly worthy, which is God. He alone is to be worshiped, He alone is to be praised, He alone is to receive the honor that is due His name, and He's supposed to get that from us because it's not about us. Now, you and I can't read hearts so we cannot possibly know when someone's worship is really about them and not God. We can't know that. What Jesus is saying here is a check on our own hearts. Is worship about my desires, my experience, my ideas about what it should and shouldn't be, or is worship about God and God alone? Worship that pleases God is the worship of God, not us.

#3) *Worship that pleases God is about knowledge, not superstition. Knowledge, not superstition.* I'm not sure a more offensive statement could be made that could rattle the ears of our soft, modern culture from a person in one religion to a person of a different religion than what is said in verse 22. "You worship what you do not know, we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews." Could you imagine a uh typical Christian leader responding to her today? I mean, I may have my opinion about what worship should be, but whatever you think is fine too. I mean, as long as it works for you. There's no right or wrong place, like both religions have their strengths. As long as you're sincere, both places, it doesn't really matter. It can all be a blessing. Then there's Jesus. What He says is narrow-minded, end of verse 24, "salvation is from the Jews," nobody else. It's bigoted. Verse 22, right in the middle, "We worship what we know."

And it's intolerant, beginning of verse 22, "You worship what you do not know." You Samaritans are wrong, the Jews have been right in this worship for, and they've been right for 500 years. Wow, I mean, Jesus is the first narrow-minded, intolerant, religious bigot, and you know what? The issue is not was that His opinion? And that's not very nice. The issue is, is He right? The issue is, is what He said true? He knows the truth because He is the truth, and John 18:37 says, "All who are on the side of truth, listen to Him." He's saying your whole system of worship was not based on knowledge. Look at verse 22, twice the word "no" is repeated, and that the tense of the verb refers to their historic, religious, theological conclusions for 500 years. The conclusions you've come to were not based on knowledge, they're tradition, superstitious error. Yes, you had good intentions and you have deep convictions and you're very sincere, but all of it's misplaced, it's not based on knowledge. They had a lot of religious activity going on for 500 years, but none of it was worship because none of it was based on the knowledge of God. Well, that's not how we've always done it. Jesus is like, that's not a valid argument. Could it be that the way you've been doing it for 500 years is wrong? And the answer is yes, it was. Remember, the Samaritans rejected the Old Testament except for the first five books. So they didn't have a ton of knowledge of God and how to worship Him. And so without most of God's Word, their religion was a mass of manmade superstition, with Bible verses and cultural norms all mixed together to produce their religion. And that's the very best that human beings can do. On the other hand, Jesus is saying that Jews had all of God's revelation, they had the truth, and Jesus says salvation comes from them. Why? Because he, the Messiah, the Jew, the Savior comes from them. Now, does that mean the Jewish religion at that time was okay? No, it wasn't okay. Why? Because what did they do? They took God's revelation and they added a bunch of manmade tradition and superstition and cultural things to create something that was completely not like it was originally supposed to be in the Old Testament. So they did the same thing. And since most of the Jewish people today have rejected their Messiah, what was said about the Samaritans is true of them too, verse 22, "You worship what you don't know," which can be said of every other religion on the planet, except for a religion that comes from the text of God's Word.

So if we want our worship to please God, it can't be based on the words of men, their opinions, no matter how famous or smart or well-respected or influential those men are. Without God's Word, we should be very wary of any attempt to worship. Anything that says, this is the worship of God, you should be going, "Chapter and verse, show me where that is in the Bible." Our good intentions, our historic traditions, our holy books and holy men, our informed opinions, our logical inferences should all be weighed by this truth. In other words, we need a Word from God, for who to worship and who not to worship for what worship is and what worship isn't for, how we worship and why we worship in the ways that we do, it's all got to come from Him. All worship that is opposed to God's Word cannot be true worship. and because of that, it can't possibly be pleasing to the only God there is in existence to worship.

Next, point #4) ***Worship that pleases God is about the inward, not the outward. The inward, not the outward.*** Notice what Jesus says, verse 23, "true worshipers," the true worshipers, this group of people, "The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth." Again, verse

23, there are only true worshipers because "the hour," notice in says at the verse 20, "The hour is coming," that's when Jesus dies and rises again, and that hour, He says, is also now here why? Because the one who will die and rise again was in her midst, making all things new. And think about it; Jesus starts the process of salvation by becoming a human being, with the goal of taking away the sin of the world, through His death and resurrection. All of that, so that there will be, verse 23, "True worshipers" of God, and those "true worshipers will worship the Father," notice, "in spirit." What does that mean? Well, in context, true worshipers are not identified by where they worship, but how they worship. They worship in spirit, which means internally. This isn't feelings and experiences and sensations, this has to do with worship that is sincere, from the heart, from a heart that truly values and honors and esteems and sees God as worthy of worship for what He's done in saving your soul. In context, it's the opposite of the value of worship being found in the outward, the location, the building, the services, the spectacle, the rituals, all of that means nothing. Nothing. What matters to God is the inward, the heart, the soul, the way a person truly thinks and feels and cares about God. Like going through the motions, following the rituals, heart detached, mind somewhere else. God's not, well, at least he went through the ritual. Thanks for that. That's great. I mean, I know your mind was on your fantasy team, but thanks for singing that song, that that was great. I mean, would would would that be okay with your spouse? Look, honey, I was I was I was driving home and I stopped at the gas station. I found this, and I know it's your birthday, so here's the gift I got you. You just got it at the gas station, really didn't put any thought into it. Would that work with your spouse? It wouldn't, right? Why? Because there's no sincerity there, there's no real love there. If it wouldn't work for your spouse, why in the world would it work for the God of the universe? Well, He's just happy with whatever I do. No, Jesus is saying no, God has a standard for what is true and false worship. The location isn't sacred, the building at the location isn't sacred, the people performing the services in the building at the location are not sacred. The temple, the rooms, the alters, the sacrifice, the priests, the clothing, the utensils, the titles are not sacred.

So listen, that means any form of Christianity that takes worship away from the heart, away from the inward, and makes it about the form and the appearance and the buildings and the rituals and the liturgy, has removed itself or is in the process of removing itself from true worship and needs to repent of that in light of this text. And it's not just high church stuff, with the robes and that head things and all the gold and all of that, no, low church people can do this too. Like If it's not this kind of song and this kind of instrument, with this kind of rhythm, if my hands aren't a certain way, and my eyes in my head aren't a certain way, the lighting and the sound isn't a certain way, the leader does this thing and not that thing, and that thing and not this thing, well, then if that stuff doesn't happen, then it can't be worship. Worship is not about the outward, true worship takes place in your soul. God, in other words, doesn't hear your voices. Can I get an amen for some of you? Right? You're happy about that, right? God doesn't hear our voices, He hears our hearts, which means that we can sing our guts out without worshipping at all. If the songs are not coming, if the truth is not being inflamed by what's going on in our souls. And notice the relationship. In in His choice of the word "Father," notice it's not the man upstairs, the

big guy, God you know. It's not that, worship is based on God as Father. Worship that pleases is God is intimate, not distant. It's personal, not a formal interaction. It is inward, not outward.

Which brings us next to #5) ***Worship that pleases God is about truth, not falsehood. Truth, not falsehood.*** True worshipers worship the Father in truth. And this refers to at least three things. First, worship must be honest. It's false worship if you don't mean it, if you're just going through the motions. God knows if it's a show, God knows if you're being a hypocrite, God knows if you're like, I don't really believe this garbage, but I got to make, make this one happy. God knows, He's not impressed with that. He's not like, Oh, at least you're here, thanks. No, it must be in truth, It must be honest, real, authentic or it's not worship.

Second, worship must be biblical. Jesus says John 11, John 17:17, "God's Word is truth." So we must worship the one, true God as He actually is, and actually how He says He wants to be worshiped. Both of which are found in His word. In other words, worship in truth is not based on what's false. Worship in truth doesn't come from sources that are false. False teachers, singing the songs of false teachers is a violation of this idea, it's not worshiping in truth. To worship must also judge the content of our worship. What we do in worship and what we say in worship must both be determined by the truth of God's Word. Truth in worship is everything. Not the outward trappings, not the sound, not the forms, not the physical sensations, the rituals and all of that, worship that pleases God is consistent with the Bible. Not some other holy book, not some other prophet or authority or other system. There's only one God, and He is only worshiped in truth when He's worshiped according to the truth of His Word.

Third, worship in truth means worship must be Christ-centered. It must be. Why? Because Jesus is the truth, John 14:6. So worshiping in truth includes the worship of Jesus. And since we saw in verse 23, His death and resurrection is an essential element that makes people true worshipers in the first place, that means any any system that does not worship Jesus for who He really is and what He really did is not worshiping in truth. Anything less, anything else, no matter how good it makes us feel, no matter how meaningful we might think it is, worship is not good and it's not meaningful unless it is worship in spirit and in truth. Which means when you put them both together, worship that is only sincere and heartfelt but without truth is unacceptable. And worship that's all truth but just going through the motions is also unacceptable. True worship is done in spirit and in truth. And notice verse 23 again, it says, "the Father is seeking these kinds of worshipers." But listen, that's not because people make themselves that way, and God's like, Okay, like where are they? I got to find them. Oh, I see one, and He goes in. No, that's not what Jesus is saying here. And He's also not saying, Gosh, God has this empty love cup, and would you just worship Him in spirit and truth, so we could fill that up and make Himself feel good again? No, He's seeking to give people what they were made for. He's seeking to give them the joy and satisfaction of doing what they were created to do, which is to worship Him.

In other words, the Father is seeking people who worship Him in spirit and truth, in the sense that He's seeking to make people who worship Him in spirit and truth, because of what He has done in sending His Son to be the Savior of the world, which is why the point being made here to

this Samaritan woman is that salvation might come from the Jews, but it is not just for the Jews, it is for everyone, verse 21, who believes in Him.

And finally, point #6) ***Worship that pleases God is about commands, not preferences.***

Commands, not preferences. Notice the level that Jesus takes this in verse 24, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." God is spirit, Jesus explains this in Luke 24:39, where He says, "Spirit does not have flesh and blood." So God is not now nor has He ever been physical, including a man or anything else, which means the physical is not what is important to Him. That's the whole point of saying God is spirit in the midst of all this. He can be worshiped anywhere because He is not physical. What is it that matters to Him most? Not physical things, what's taking place in your heart and the truth that you are proclaiming about Him. I mean, imagine God being impressed with our buildings. You know, going to like the cathedral in Notre Dame or something like that, and going, Wow, this place is amazing, when He lives in heaven. Right? Like like He's not going to be impressed with our buildings. Imagine Him like showing up at a song and being like, Wow, that song is amazing, those musicians are fantastic," when He has angels worshiping Him every single second of every day. Angels, perfect beings, perfect minds, creating songs that perfectly match Him, with hearts that are perfectly in line with who He is and what He wants. See, we make the physical a lot more important than God does. God is not limited by anything physical, which means that what matters is how we worship. Since God is spiritual, He should be worshiped in a way that fits who He is, which is why it should be done in spirit and truth. And notice what Jesus says in verse 24, "Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Our worship must match who God is. Now, did you see that little word "must"? That is a must of divine necessity. Worship is a serious matter. Worship is not like ice cream flavors, you just kind of pick the one you like and there's no right answer. Worship is like math problems, there are a whole lot of wrong answers and only one right answer. She wanted to know, verse 20, which mountain must people worship at? He said the must when it comes to worship is not where, but how. It must be in spirit and truth. It must be sincere from the heart, and it must be based on and conformed to the truth. It must be this way or it's not worship.

Our desires, our preferences, our backgrounds are not the deciding factor in what is and is not worship. None of that is what God desires, which means it's not like, well, God you got what you want, but I'm going to be me, I'm going to be me. See, you don't do what you want in worship, and God says what He wants, you kind of meet in the middle and make your own thing. That has a name, it's rebellion. It's rebellion to say, God, I know you want worship that way, but I like to worship this way, and this is what I'm going to do. And it's not worship unless it's in spirit and truth, and it doesn't even happen until a person, verse 21, believes, trusts in Jesus.

Okay, so if you're this woman that day, and you're hearing all this, you might be here going, Yeah, we kind of know that, you know I know this text. For her, this is blowing her mind. So her entire paradigm is shifting, everything that she's held to be absolutely true and sacred for all of her life is now being split apart. And so she says, verse 25, "I know that Messiah is coming (he

who is called Christ)." That's John translating the word Messiah for his readers. "When he comes, he will tell us all things." I don't know what you're talking about, but when He shows up, it's going to all be clear. Ironic, right? She's teaching the Messiah about the Messiah. But notice her words show a desire for the Messiah to come. This stuff is confusing, I don't understand, it's blowing my mind, and it would it would make me, it'd force me to make some really hard decisions if you're right. I just need the Messiah to come and teach me the truth. So she doesn't have clarity about this stranger that she met at the well. So Jesus just gives her the clarity in verse 26. "Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'" The whole conversation was moving to this, He's the Messiah. All her confusion, all her questions, all her striving for satisfaction, all of that, found in Him.

So if we take a step back from this text, what can we learn about evangelism from the text that we looked at today? I think two things. First, we should anticipate questions, we should anticipate the need to answer questions. She had this question, where should we worship? You're going to face all kinds of questions from people that you're trying to help see their need to give their lives to Jesus. And so when it comes to evangelism, expect to be asked questions, and even here's a helpful thing, when you don't know the answer to a question, instead of pretending, just say, "I don't know, I'll get back to you later" you know, and just take the question, study it, come talk to someone like me or one of the other pastors here, and we'll help you. And second, I think in evangelism, we learned from Jesus here that there is a need to separate Jesus from every other religion. That's what He just did right? Hey, it's not this one, and it's not that one, It's me. And in our evangelism, we may need the uh the courage to be able to do that as well. Why? Because only true worship comes from believing in Jesus, worshiping sincerely and worshiping according to the truth of the Bible. Apart from that, there is no worship that pleases God. How do I know that? One last thing, verse 26, that word "He" is not in the original text. What Jesus said to her was, "I am who speaks to you." I am, the name of God, the voice of the burning bush, I am speaking to you. So Jesus is in the most unique place there could possibly ever be to talk about worship that pleases God. Why? Because He is God. Let's pray.

Jesus, you are depicted as meek and mild, no convictions, flowers in your hair, just walking around loving people. But what we just saw here, with this woman at the well, is that you love people by giving them the truth, and the truth that you give people is you. So thank you not only for showing us how to take these truths about you and share them with those who need it, but thank you in your in your explanation of what it really means to worship. Thank you for cutting through all the fog, and all the confusion, and all the air, and making it so simple. I pray that you would help all of us to conform our thinking and our feeling, and our decision making and our acting when it comes to worship, pray that all of that would conform to your Words here. Thank you for this truth, and thank you for sustaining me through three services today. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.