**True Worship**

*John 4:19-24*

**Introduction**

1. Going from Judea to Galilee, Jesus had to go through Samaria, and there He met a woman at Jacob’s well.
2. After discussing with her His ability to give living water, He told her to get her husband **(v. 16).**
   1. Her first reaction shows that most likely she was ashamed of her current situation, and she tried to divert the discussion **(v. 17)**.
   2. Jesus revealed her truth, being omniscient **(v. 18)**.
   3. It seems she further attempted to change the subject by asking about worship – a question which Jesus answered **(v. 19-24)**.
3. Jesus revealed true worship to the Samaritan woman – worship which she, being a Samaritan, could soon engage in **(v. 21-24)**.
   1. Salvation was of the Jews in that the revelation of God was given to the Jewish people, and salvation would ensue from that nation.
   2. She, being a Samaritan, did not know how to worship God correctly – the Samaritans rejected the OT revelations.
   3. Jesus spoke of a time of true worship, and true worshippers.
      1. True worship has no “where” – it is spiritual, not physical.
      2. True worship has only a “how” – in spirit and truth.
4. Worship
5. Defined.
   1. *shâchâh* (Hebrew) – to depress, that is, prostrate (especially reflexively in homage to royalty or God).
   2. *proskuneō* (Greek) – (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master’s hand); to fawn or crouch to, that is, (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore).
   3. *Vine’s* – to make obeisance (a movement of the body expressing deep respect or deferential courtesy, as before a superior; a bow, curtsy, or other similar gesture), do reverence to.
6. Inherent Obligation in Creation
   1. **Ecclesiastes 1:2** – life without worship, and worshipful attitude before God.
      1. There are many things under the sun to engage in.
      2. Solomon reached the conclusion that all is vain without God. Why? 🡪
   2. **12:13** – “Man’s all” or his whole created purpose is to pay homage to God continually in life.
      1. We must revere Him, and serve Him.
      2. **As His creation, our purpose is to prostrate ourselves before Him, and fulfill our created purpose.**
   3. **Revelation 4** – The throne scene reveals the center of the universe, or creation.
      1. **God is at the center in that being the Creator, all are made to bow before Him and worship.**
      2. *God on throne; 24 Elders; 4 Living Creatures*.
      3. **5:13-14** – Every creature worshipped.
7. Some do not wish to worship because of what it suggests. God transcends us; we are not worthy; He IS!
   1. This is why salvation requires humility – **James 4:6, 10**.
   2. Those who do not prostrate themselves by free-will will eventually by constraint – **Romans 14:11**
      1. The former will have everlasting life.
      2. The latter will have everlasting death.
8. Most who do worship do not consider that there is a proper way to worship.
   1. **It is logical that the Creator, who demands and deserves worship, would define the parameters of acceptable worship.**
   2. **Worship is not for us, but for God – If this is the case then He must define true worship.**
9. Worship in Spirit
10. God is Spirit – **John 4:24**
    1. This is why the location is not important – **Acts 7:47-50 (Stephen’s sermon.)**
    2. Worship is not a physical thing, because God is not physical **– Acts 17:24-29**
11. **Going through the motions misses the point!**
    1. **Micah 6:6-8** – It is not that the commands of sacrifice and ceremonial observance were not needed to please God, but that without the proper mindset they were vain.
    2. **Matthew 23:23-28** – The Pharisees worshipped and served God to be seen by men. They went through the motions, but their heart was not in it.
       1. They stretched the law beyond what was commanded.
       2. They neglected to have the proper “spirit.”
       3. They metaphorically filter the gnat, but do not mind swallowing a camel!
    3. **Matthew 15:8** – The Pharisees gave lip service, but were corrupt inwardly.
       1. **They were insincere, but also did not do as God commanded**. 🡪
12. Worship in Truth
13. Worship must be done as God commands.
    1. It cannot be either spirit or truth, but both spirit and truth. (Sincerity without truth is no better than going through the motions.)
    2. **Matthew 15:1-9** – The Pharisees were binding tradition as more important than divine precept.
       1. They were hypocrites – acting as if they were holy and good, when in fact they were corrupt.
       2. **They used their tradition to nullify God’s command. (Have to honor father and mother, but if you do this – their tradition – you don’t have to anymore)**.
       3. **Worship according to how we want to worship is vain**!
       4. **Worship according to how God instructs is proper, and beneficial**.
14. Sincere worship in error is not accepted.
    1. **Matthew 7:21-23** – They praised, worshipped, and served, but not according to God’s specifications!
    2. We must do exactly as God says! – **Colossians 3:17**

**Conclusion**

1. We are all expected to worship God. It is our created purpose to pay homage to Him, and render obeisance to Him.
2. However, we must do it in spirit – in sincerity and with heart.
3. We must also do it according to His specifications.
4. We must each examine ourselves (cf**. 1 Corinthians 11:26-32** – consider the act of worship that is the Lord ’s Supper.)
   1. Worship is an individual thing. We do it together in the assembly, and there are acts of worship that can only be done in the assembly, but it is an individual thing.
   2. **One person cannot worship for another person. Each must worship acceptably on his own accoun**t.
   3. ***Are you worshipping in spirit and truth?***