

God With Us

A Study of John's Gospel: "The Spirit of Worship"

John 4:19-26

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth?" (John 4:24)

I. A New Call to Worship

- a. Jesus introduced the woman to a new kind of worship, fundamentally different from that of the Jews and Samaritans. (Rev 21:5)
- b. Lesson #1 – Worship of the Father is not to be confined to any specific and isolated place.
- c. Lesson #2 – God is not found in the Temple at Jerusalem, nor in a rival structure on Gerizim, but in spirit. (v. 20)
- d. Lesson #3 – Worship is to be free and it is to honor God, who is the object of our worship.

II. God is Spirit

- a. What does it mean, *God is a Spirit*? It is somewhat difficult to comprehend but this is what it implies:
 1. God is a personal being, who is self-conscious, meaning He is known and reveals Himself. (Mal 3:6)
 2. He possesses intelligence and will, beyond human understanding.
 3. God is person, but His personality transcends our beginning. (Rev. 22:13)
- b. God, the Father has no body, and is *not* subject to human limitations and conditions.
- c. He needs no local dwelling-place, no temple, or material offerings.
- d. The more worshippers fix their minds on a location/building, the less they will carry with them the consciousness of God's presence is in all places. (Matt 18:20)
 1. If God's presence is only established in one location on earth, man could reason ownership.
 2. We would be able to control the place and the people who worship in the place.
- e. God seeks to be worshipped not by outward activities or elaborate rituals, but in spirit.
- f. To worship God *in* spirit is for a believer to yield to the power of the Holy Spirit that lives in them.
- g. We humble our spirit before the Divine Spirit. It is from our inner-man we offer ourselves up to God. This is sacrificial worship. We must worship God from the inside out or it is not true.

III. Worship That is Truth

- a. Worship *in* the spirit needs no words, no appointed place, but only a human soul that bows *inwardly* before the goodness of God, submitting to His sovereign and loving will.
- b. People are created differently but in the image of God. What is natural to one will be formal and artificial to another.
- c. Some worshippers will always feel closer to God in private, in their own silent room, and with nothing but their heart exposed to God. They are not moved by worship services filled with music.
- d. Others may feel that they can best worship God in spirit when the forms of worship are expressive and significant. (music, instruments, dance, arts, etc.)
- e. If it is truthful worship, we strive to keep it simple, thoughtful and it should be done in excellence.
- f. Where the spirit is not engaged there is no worship at all.
- g. Truth is opposed to error or misunderstanding about the object of worship.
- h. Christ is the object of our worship. His presence enables us to worship the Father in truth.
- i. Jesus gives us the true idea of God. He makes God real.
- j. Christ shows us God as He truly is, connected with us by love.
- k. How does your personal worship time differ from your public worship?