

Title: Real Worship

Text: John 4:19-24

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to John chapter 4. The gospel of John chapter 4, beginning with verse 19. John chapter 4 is the story of Jesus' conversation with a Samaritan woman. It is a wonderful story. And there are many lessons that one can learn from this conversation. Today, I want to center our hearts and minds on those verses which deal with the INSTRUCTIONS OF JESUS ABOUT WORSHIP. Our subject: REAL WORSHIP.

John chapter 4 beginning with vs. 19 .. (Read John 4:19-24)

(Prayer)

(5D) Now, I would like to share with you the instructions of Jesus concerning worship. And there are three things that I want to share with you this morning.

(1E) Number one, notice in Vs 21 that Jesus gave this woman a prediction of the future. And this prediction was based upon His own creditability. Jesus said to her: "Woman, believe me."

You see, everything Jesus said was based upon His own creditability. Do you know what the basic reason is for believing that the Bible is the Word of God? It isn't because archeology supports that fact. It isn't because history proves it's truthfulness. It isn't because of fulfilled prophecy that would hold up in any court of law. NO WAY! The basic reason why we believe the Bible is the Word of God is because Jesus said it was. Now, he is either lying or He is telling the truth. If he is lying, then let's all go home and close the doors of the church. He is a deceiver.

But, you see, all that we do is based upon the truthfulness and the testimony of Jesus who said that not one jot or one tittle shall pass away until all these things shall be fulfilled. He constantly said that this is MY WORD. And we believe that this book is the Word of God based upon the creditability of Jesus, himself.

In Vs 21 Jesus said: "Believe me, the hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father."

That was the prediction of the future. And of course, it has come true.

Now, what is Jesus actually teaching here about worship. In Vs 21, it is clear that He is indicating that these places <sup>(the mountain or Jerusalem)</sup> are not important. They are not significant. The hour is coming when we will not have to worship this way anymore. And the point is that worship will no longer be sacrifices..and temples..and priest. But, the temple will now move to the believer's body. Our body has become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

God has always had His place of worship. Tabernacles..Temples..That is why the Jews when they returned from the Babylonian captivity had to build a temple...a place where they could worship God through the many sacrifices. All beautiful types <sup>By the way, of</sup> looking forward to ~~Jesus Christ~~.

You see, the early Jewish Christian had a problem. And that is why the book of Hebrews was written. Because the Temple was not destroyed by the Romans until 70 A.D. And when the many Jews who came to know Christ, in those early days of the church, when they got saved they had a problem because the Temple was still there. And the sacrifices <sup>were</sup> ~~where~~ still going <sup>on</sup> ~~one~~. What are we suppose to do? And that is why Paul wrote the book of Hebrews to explain that all these things were shadows and types pointing to the worship of Jesus.

And the point is that the O.T. system of worship will <sup>be done away</sup> ~~not be anymore~~. That ~~Jesus~~ <sup>Jesus</sup> will be Priest, sacrifice, temple..everything. The entire economy of the O.T. is all wiped up in Jesus. He is the fulfilment of it all.

So, we have this prediction of the future. You will not have to worship <sup>at</sup> ~~in~~ this mountain or even in Jerusalem. <sup>something different is coming</sup>  
(2E) Now, the second thing that I notice about this instruction to worship is the problem of knowledge. All of us face this at one time or another.

Jesus said to this woman in Vs 22.."You worship that which you do not know."  
*and How True that is!*

IT'S

~~Wanna~~ ~~It~~

*(Slowly)*  
 It, amazing how people can go through the motions and the forms and the rituals and act as though they are worshipping God? And yet, it is just forms and rituals. And they don't understand what they are doing or the reality of it all. We have our testaments, our crosses, our candles, our ~~stain glass windows~~, <sup>our order of worship, our Hymn Books</sup> our communion table...anything we can to help us get to God. Listen, dear friends, Jesus, right now, in one moment of time is throwing all of that out the window. If you worship God, <sup>on Sunday Morn,</sup> you will worship Him ~~in a different manner~~ *in a different manner.*

We call this service a WORSHIP SERVICE. As though ~~we~~ <sup>you</sup> could some how program <sup>order of worship</sup> worship. You know, I believe that attitude is an abomination in the sight of God. <sup>you must</sup> When you come to a public <sup>service</sup> of worship you must worship Jesus in your heart. ~~You~~ cannot program worship. No order of service will do that. No ritual. No literagy. No outwards forms or certain ~~things~~ things cause a moving of the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Bible warns in 2 Timothy 3:5 that in the last days they will have a form, which is the word ritual by the way, a form of godliness but denieing the power there of.

I meet people all the time who say they believe in God, who really do not. ~~IF they believed in a personal God, it would change~~ <sup>their</sup> ~~our~~ life.

*So* Many people become practical atheist. They believe in God like they believe in Mother..apple pie, and the American flag. Everybody does. And so ~~you~~ <sup>They</sup> accept the fact that everybody believes in some kind of God. And yet, ~~we~~ <sup>They</sup> live as though He isn't around. And ~~our~~ <sup>their</sup> life style proves that ~~we~~ <sup>They</sup> are not interested in Him.

Dear friends, <sup>I hope you</sup> ~~do you~~ believe in a personal God? Many people worship that which they ~~don't~~ even know. They don't even understand. They just go through motions hoping for a spiritual experience of some kind. Will the <sup>music</sup> ~~service~~ inspire me? Will the <sup>sermon</sup> ~~pastor~~ <sup>meet my need</sup> ~~feed me~~? It all becomes self-centered.

Jesus said, "We know what we worshp. For salvation is from the Jews." Now, that wasn't a put down on the Samaritans or the Gentiles. It is a statement of fact.

God said that He choose Israel because they were little and not very important among the nations of the world." If you think that God choose the Jews because they are worth more than the Gentiles, you do not have a Bible understanding. The Bible says that God choose the Jews because they were a small nation. He chose to prosper them so that the whole world would take notice and say..WHY THEM?...Why?...Because of his love. *For all people.*

And through that little nation He brought the Messiah, who is the salvation of the world. Jesus said, "that slavation comes out-off the Jews. And that is true.

(3E) And this brings me to the third <sup>principle</sup> thing that I notice about this instruction to worship. And that is the <sup>Real</sup> ~~true~~ method of woship.

Vs 23 and 24 are two very important verses.

Take your Bibles and turn to the book of Revelation chapter 4. The book of Revelation chapter 4 verse 11. The Bible is saying that the Father is seeking people who will worship Him. WHY?

In Revelation chapter 4, we have a picture of the saints..the believers.. in heaven. And they are praiseing the Lord. Revelation 4:11 says:

"Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they existed, and were created."

This verse simply tells us that God created everything for Himself. He created you for Himself. ~~Because he wanted you. Thus, He has a plan in~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~. He made us. He designed us.

Paul wrote in Romans 9 that the clay cannot say to the potter, why have you made me like this? You see, a part of what God wants from us is our worship. If fact, we are designed and prograded to worship Him. That inside of us is a built in temple to worship God and to honor Him and to Know him. <sup>So</sup> ~~In fact~~, if we dont' worship God, we will worship something. Bec'use that desire to worship was placed within us by God, himself.

Now, let's come back to John chapter 4...John 4 verse 23....

Jesus said in Vs 23.."But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers." *applies that to your life*

Then the explanation is given in Vs 24.."God is spirit, and those who who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth." *3 things about the method of worship*

(1) First of all, what is the meaning of the word worship?

The word literally means "to kiss towards something." In other words, worship is an act of intimate affection or devotion...a kiss towards something And that something is, according to the text, GOD.

This word, by the way, is only used of worship of God the Father and Jesus Christ. It is never used of the Holy Spirit. It is used in Revelation 13:4 and other passages in the book of Revelation of unbelieving men in a future judgement period on the world called the Tribulation. Men who will worship Satan and the anti-Christ.

In the book of Acts, chapter 7, Stephen in his great sermon to the Jews referring to the O.T. reminded them that at one time their adultery was so bad that they worshipped idols. They kissed idols and gave affection to them which belonged only to God. Unbelieving people in the tribulation will have affection and devotion and love for Satan and the coming world ruler, the Anti-christ. And they will worship them. A counterfeit worship.

But, outside of those few examples the word "worship" is only used of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, we are not to worship any other created thing. Only God. *So ~~worship~~ means showing affection and devotion to God*

*Do YOU Remember The example in*  
*IT SAYS*  
Now, would you turn back to the book of Revelation chapter 22. Revelation chapter 22 verse 8. "and I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship." (There is our word, 'to kiss towards an object') "I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. And he said to me, do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book: WORSHIP GOD. The only one you are to worship is GOD."

Now, turn, please, to Matthew chapter 4. In Matthew 4, the devil has approached Jesus seeking to tempt him in the days of his flesh. And tempting Him to do things against what His divine nature knew could never be done. Satan tempted Jesus in every area of life. Jesus was tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin.

In Matt. 4 verse 9 the Devil had taken Jesus to a high mountain to show him all the kingdoms of the world. And in Vs 9 the Devil says to Jesus, "all these things will I give you, if you fall down and worship me."

And the devil used the word "worship." A word that is to be used only of the Father and of the Son. "If you fall down and worship me."

Vs 10.. "Then Jesus said to him, Begone, Satan, for it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and serve him only." You only worship THE LORD YOUR GOD.

Now, turn to the book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 1 verse 4.. Here, Paul is speaking of Jesus.....(Read Vs 4-6)

O.K. from Revelation 22 we noticed that John tried to worship an angel. And the angel said, "NO! you are to only worship God."

Then Jesus said to Satan, "You are to worship the Lord Your God."

And then in Hebrews 1 the Lord God instructed all the angels to worship the SON....the first-begotten. Namely Jesus. Jesus is being called God. WE ARE TO WORSHIP GOD.

Now, come back to John 4 and let me put all of this together for you.

I don't want you to miss <sup>None</sup> the point that Jesus makes in John 4.

*Now* The Samaritan woman is concerned about worship...DO WE WORSHIP AT THE MOUNTAIN OR IN THE TEMPLE IN JERSUALEM?

Jesus told her that we are not going to do that anymore. Salvation is from the Jews. He pointed her attention to the Messiah. And dear friends, she <sup>got</sup> ~~got~~ the point because she says so in Vs 25, She understood that. And Jesus said "that the true worshippers will worship God in Spirit and in truth. And that the Father is seeking such to worship him." That is the way God wants <sup>you all</sup> ~~you~~ to worship him. / *Our affection and devotion toward God*

(2) <sup>seconds</sup>

Now, what does it mean to worship in spirit and truth?"

~~The average person~~ <sup>many people</sup> who reads this passage interprets it this way: What Jesus is saying is that the word "spirit" is referring to the "Holy Spirit." And the word "truth" is referring to "THE WORD OF GOD.: Therefore, you must worship in the Holy Spirit and in the word of God.

Now, I believe that is true. But, that is not what Jesus is saying here in these verses. He is not referring to the Holy Spirit. But, He is saying WORSHIP IN THE QUALITY OF, OR, THE REALM OF, OR, THE SPHERE OF ~~THE SPIRIT.~~ <sup>your</sup>

And He is saying WORSHIP IN THE REALM OF TRUTH. Not, THE TRUTH..... meaning the Word of God. But, just in TRUTH. <sup>So,</sup> WHAT IS THE POINT

The word "in Spirit" is always used in contrast to "flesh." It always refers to the inward..in contrast to the "outward."

In other words, Jesus is saying.."If you worship God, it cannot be with outward forms and rituals and business. It must be in the heart. In your spirit.So, the application, I believe, is very clear. If we are believers and doing the right thing in our life, are we worshipping God by the things we do? Or, are we worshipping God on the inside, in our hearts, inwardly?

The word "worship" means "to kiss towards God." It is an absolute devotion and affection to God and Him alone <sup>coming from our spirit</sup>

And the word "truth" would then be in contrast to a show <sup>make believe</sup> His point to the woman would be that the entire O.T. system is contrasted with "HIS TRUTH." The truth as it is in Jesus. All of that system of worship in the O.T. pointed to the truth which is Jesus. So, if you worship God, you must worship him inside, in your spirit; and you must worship him in truth not in show <sup>come how to worship</sup> ~~In the complete fulfillment of all the O.T. system of worship~~ <sup>make believe or expect to be entertained</sup>

<sup>We must worship</sup> ~~which is simply stated..JESUS HIMSELF.~~ We don't just worship some unknown God. We worship in ~~the~~ truth...<sup>The Truth That Jesus is God</sup> ~~which is Jesus, Himself.~~

You see, if you have substituted anything, I don't care if it is business for him, or service for him, anything, you are not worshipping in the Spirit. If you desire a show or to be entertained, you are not worshipping in ~~the~~ truth.

<sup>When you come to church</sup>  
on all your needs met.

And God really spoke to my heart about this. How easy it slips away from us. How easy to substitute forms and rituals and order of service, and call that worship.

I shall never forget the time Shirley and I decided to go into Bakersfield. We were ministering in a little town called Taft. It was 30 miles west of Bakersfield. And during that trip into Bakersfield, all the doubts of the enemy suddenly came over me. My calling into ministry. It isn't real. It is all make believe. Jesus isn't real. It is all a part of our imagination, etc.

But, once again in that moment through the words of my dear wife,. God brought His Word to me. One verse after another. And Jesus remained me once again of the personal presence of Christ. That He is real. That he lives. That he died and rose again. That he does call people into ministry. And god showed me, once again, that worship was in the heart. And I believe that whole experience was the Lord's simple way of saying: "Bill, don't forget me. Don't you ever preach on that text on worshi8p and forget Jesus.

And dear friends, that is the whole point of this passage. When you worship, you worship in your heart in your spirit. You worship inside of yourself. And you worship in truth. The truth that Jesus is almighty God. And when you do that, things will begin to change in your attitude and life. Oh, the sermon can be bad, the choir can hit flat notes. People may sing off key, there maybe noise in the narthex, the children maybe making to much noise. But, oh, how the Holy Spirit can move in your life. WHY? Because you are worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ in spirit and in truth. RESULT: you will want to be in church on Sundays. You will want to be with Christians in worship.

Shall we close with prayer