

True Worshipers

What I want to accomplish:

1. Show the importance of both spirit and truth in regards to worship
 2. Get the congregation to think about their own worship
 3. Show the undesirable condition of a false worshiper
 4. Show the desirable condition of a true worshiper
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- I. Introduction
 - a. **Read (John 4:20-24)**
 - b. Find from these verses of Scripture a few things:
 - i. There is true worship and false worship
 - ii. God seeks the true worshipers
 - iii. True worship is not decided by place but decided by type
 1. God is a Spirit
 - iv. The type of acceptable worship is two-fold
 1. Spirit
 2. Truth
 - II. The Samaritan Woman's Question
 - a. **(John 4:20)** "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."
 - b. The woman's condition:
 - i. Found to be immoral – impure condition – didn't argue the point
 - ii. Realized that she was speaking to someone special – a Prophet of God (John 4:19) "The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet."
 - c. The woman took hold of the opportunity:
 - i. Some say she tried to change the subject – I don't believe so, I believe that she had a question that has been on her mind that she felt she finally found someone that may be able to answer it
 - ii. Speaks honorably of the woman
 1. Many find people that are sinners and think that they have no interest in the truth – this woman had interest and she took hold of the opportunity and asked.
 - iii. We too should ask this question – and look for answers – This is honorable
 1. How can I worship God acceptably?
 - d. She made a valid argument:
 - i. If the fathers worshiped in this mountain then why can't we do this also and be accepted? Why do you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship, when the fathers worshiped here?
 1. This was a valid argument from her standpoint
 - a. The fathers did worship in that area
 - b. **Abraham (Gen 12:6-7)** "And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the

plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.”

- c. **Jacob (Gen 33:18-20)** “And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan-aram; and pitched his tent before the city. And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. And he erected there an altar, and called it El-elohe-Israel.”

2. Lets look at, briefly, the history of Samaritan worship

e. History of Samaritan Worship

i. After the Assyrian Conquest

1. The king of Assyria removed the children of Israel out of the land of Samaria, except for the tribe of Judah. The king then brought foreigners in.

- a. **(2 Kings 17:24)** “And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.”

2. God started sending lions to devour the impious

- a. **(2 Kings 17:25)** “And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the Lord: therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which slew some of them.”

3. The king of Assyria sent a priest that was vanquished back to Samaria to teach them how to worship God

- a. **(2 Kings 17:27-28)** “Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land. Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord.”

4. The people, however, brought in their national God's and worshiped them along with Jehovah. **(2 Kings 17:29-31)**

- a. **(2 Kings 17:32-34)** “So they feared the Lord, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places. They feared the Lord,

and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence. Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the Lord, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel”

- ii. The Great Schism Between the Jew and Samaritan is said to be since the days of Nehemiah
 - 1. Nehemiah was opposed by Sanballat, which intensely opposed Nehemiah in the rebuilding of Jerusalem and her wall.
 - a. Nehemiah banished Sanballat’s son-in-law
 - b. **(Neh 13:28)** “And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.”
 - 2. Jewish folklore claims that this son-in-law became the founder of the Samaritan sect
 - a. “He told him, (*Speaking of Sanballat*) that he had a son-in-law, Manasseh, who was brother to the high priest Jaddua; and that there were many others of his own nation now with him, that were desirous to have a temple in the place subject to him.”
(Josephus, The Antiquities of the Jews, 11.8.4)
 - i. **Note:** Josephus’ time setting is different than Nehemiah’s – Nehemiah was there, Josephus was not.

iii. This brings us up to the time of Christ and the Woman’s question

III. The Lord’s Answer

- a. **(John 4:21)** “Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.”
 - i. “The Hour Cometh”
 - 1. The Gospel dispensation was close at hand – Christ is showing that there will be a new age of universal worship of God regardless of place or race.
- b. **(John 4:22)** “Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.”
 - i. “Ye worship ignorantly”
 - 1. Samaritan’s rejection of the Prophets of God
 - a. “The Samaritans trace their beginnings to the time of Eli, who established the sanctuary for worship of God in Shiloh. They also believe their religion is distinctive because they base their beliefs and practices on the Torah, or the Law – the first five

books of the Old Testament. They recognize no other Hebrew Scriptures as authoritative.”

(Illustrated Dictionary of the Bible, Nelson, p 942)

- ii. This is an implication that the Samaritans did not have truth
 - 1. Just because the fathers worshiped in this Mountain – God’s commands, which they rejected, told them to worship in Jerusalem.
 - a. Their fathers worshiped before the commandment
 - b. Application for Today:
 - i. Just because a certain type of worship was accepted before in a different dispensation doesn’t mean that it’s automatically accepted now!
 - ii. **Example:**
 - 1. Animal Sacrifices
 - 2. Candles
 - 3. Incense
 - 4. Instrumental Music
 - iii. Their worship was faulty for the following reasons:
 - 1. They did not accept the whole counsel of God – rejected God’s prophets
 - 2. They were polluted by pagan influences from their past
 - iv. “We know what we worship”
 - 1. The Jews concerning locations and forms did have truth – They worshiped where God commanded, and they were the chosen nation of God, because of what God revealed to them in His word.
 - v. “For salvation is of the Jews”
 - 1. **(Rom 9:4-5)** “Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”
 - a. The reason that they knew what they worshiped is because salvation is of (from) the Jews – They were the chosen people of God – to whom God gave the covenant and the promise of salvation to the all nations
 - c. **(John 4:23-24)** “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
 - i. Spirit – Inner Desire
 - ii. Truth – Outward Form
- IV. The two extremes of worship contrasted:

- a. Then:
 - i. Samaritans had the inner desire for worship – Spirit
 - ii. Jews had the knowledge and correct form for worship – Truth
 - b. Now:
 - i. Some have a inner desire for worship but not done in truth – Spirit
 - ii. Some have the truth in what they do for worship but do not have the inner desire! – Truth
 - c. Jesus says that God seeks those that worship with the inner desire for worship and done according to His commands
 - i. Are you one that God seeks?
- V. Application for us: How Do We Worship God in Spirit and in Truth?
- a. Is Correct Form Enough?
 - i. What if one would come to church every Sunday, Sing, Pray, Study Along with the Sermon, Give, and Partake of the Lord’s Supper, Would he/she be a ‘True Worshiper’?
 - 1. Not Necessarily – If there’s no inner desire to worship the almighty the worship is vain! – Mockery
 - 2. About as bad as the mock worship the soldiers gave Christ
 - a. **(Mark 15:17-19)** “And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.”
 - b. Spirit
 - i. Disposition of your heart
 - 1. Reverence
 - 2. Inward Desire to give thanks and praise to God
 - ii. Praise to God with Thanksgiving
 - 1. **(Eph 5:18-20)** “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - 2. **(Col 3:16-17)** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
 - 3. **(1 Cor 14:15)** “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”
 - iii. We need to realize Who we are worshipping
 - 1. God is Spirit – not man – not mortal

- a. Spiritual in nature and full of all spiritual perfections, power, wisdom, love, and holiness. And our worship should be suitable to his nature.
- 2. We need to approach God with reverence and respect
 - a. Example of Moses:
 - i. **(Ex 3:4-6)** “And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.”
- 3. When you come to God in worship, do you approach him casually, or do you come as though you were an invited guest before a King
 - a. **(Ps 29:2)** “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”
- 4. The Creator of all there is
 - a. **(Gen 1:1)** “In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.”
- 5. We ought to stand in fear and awe to our God
 - a. **(Ps 33:8)** “Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”
- 6. In our worship to our Father, we need to bring the best we have.
 - a. Example of the Magi
 - i. **(Matt 2:11)** “And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”
 - b. This is the essence of true worship – honoring God with your best
 - i. **(Heb 13:15)** “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”
- 7. This is the God that has given us our salvation
 - a. **(Eph 2:5)** “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”

- iv. Are you truly worshipping God in spirit?
- c. Truth
 - i. God's word, His Commands – Truth is Revealed – There is a Form to acceptable worship
 - ii. **(John 17:17)** “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
 - iii. Some try to tell us that there is no rituals or form in worship, but to worship God in truth is to worship Him as He directs
 - 1. Jesus said, “...they that worship him **must** worship him in spirit and in truth.” **(John 4:24)**
 - 2. Again, He said, “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” **(Mark 7:7)** “
 - 3. Also, “Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.” **(Matt 15:6)**
 - iv. The Acts of Worship that God Accepts
 - 1. **(Acts 2:42)** “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
 - a. Prayers
 - i. **(Phil 4:6)** “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
 - b. Breaking of Bread – Lord's Supper
 - i. **(Acts 20:7)** “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread.”
 - c. Teaching and Learning the word of God
 - i. **(Acts 20:7)** “...Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow.”
 - ii. **(1 Tim 4:6)** “If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.”
 - d. Giving of our means
 - i. **(1 Cor 16:2)** “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
 - e. Singing of Songs
 - i. **(Eph 5:19-20)** “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things

unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- v. We can not go beyond this worship and still be acceptable to God
 - 1. **(1 Cor 4:6)** “Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not (to go) beyond the things which are written”

VI. The eternal fate of those that are not true worshipers

- a. **(Matt 7:21-23)** “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”
- b. This is not speaking of just form but also approach – Worship must be from the heart – do it because you love God and want to show Him the adoration that He deserves.

VII. Conclusion

- a. **(John 4:23)** “...the Father seeketh such to worship him.”
 - i. Think about the Father of lights seeks this type of person to worship him – one that loves to worship and one that will submit their will for God’s.
- b. Do you want God to seek you?
 - i. Be obedient to His Gospel
 - 1. If you are not a child of God – you are not in the spiritual temple of God and cannot render acceptable worship – Become one today
 - 2. **(1 Peter 2:5)** “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”
 - ii. Worship Him as he directs and do it from the heart!