

Worshiping in Spirit and in Truth

John 4:1-24

I. We worship who or what we give ultimate allegiance to, in making decisions for this life and preparing for the life to come. For many peoples in Jesus' day (and today), it was also a point of national identity and self esteem.

- A. In Jesus' day, Israel was a religious hotbed (Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Samaritans, Greeks, Romans, John the Baptist).
- B. The background behind the story of Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well is the hatred between the Samaritans and Jews, and the religious barriers between men and women of that time.

II. What did Jesus mean when He said that God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in the Spirit?

- A. First worshipers must experience a radical change (John 3:3-8; Galatians 3:3-6).
- B. Individually and corporately we become the very temple of God (I Corinthians 6:18-20; 3:16-17).
- C. Jesus baptizes us with His Spirit, and He empowers us to do His works (Acts 1:4-8).
- D. The Spirit testifies that we are beloved sons and daughters of God (Romans 8:14-16).
- E. We walk in the Spirit and produce the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:1 5-26).
- F. We offer sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving that cause the very presence of God to manifest (Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 100:1-5; Ephesians 5:18-20; Psalm 63:1-8).
- G. There are also many other expressions of worship that cause the presence of God to manifest, such as instruments, prophetic utterance, encouraging one another, silence, dance, clapping hands, shouting, etc.

III. What did Jesus mean when He said we must worship in truth (John 4:24)?

- A. The Spirit leads us into all truth. Truth includes revelation, what we think, what we say, and how we act (John 16:12-15).
- B. The Holy Spirit is uniquely qualified to help us understand the Bible, the revelation of God's truth.
 - 1. The Bible is God-breathed (II Timothy 3:14-17).
 - 2. The Word of God is able to train us in all righteousness.
- C. God uses the Scriptures to judge the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12-13; Matthew 5:21-26, 27-28; 6:19-24; 7:1) (Examples of Mirror, Scales).
- D. Speaking the truth in love when guided by the Spirit and the Scriptures is one of the most powerful things we can do for another person (Ephesians 4:14-16).
- E. The Spirit and the Bible help us understand the promises God has freely given to us (I Corinthians 2:12-13). Worship is expressing who I was truly created to be.