

True Worship

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Straight Paths Bible Church

- I. Let's review the conversation so far.
- A. Jesus was there first – He was waiting on the woman to come to where He was.
 - B. Jesus asked the woman to give him a drink.
 - 1. That made her think of her burdens and the drudgery and meaninglessness of her life.
 - 2. It was driven home by the fact that He was a Jew and she was a Samaritan.
 - 3. It was somewhat humiliating for her to acknowledge her social status in his presence.
 - 4. She made a slight protest about the fact that He would ask her for anything, considering their two different identities.
 - C. Jesus offered her the prospect of something better than the life of drudgery and toil that she was experiencing.
 - 1. He told her that if she had asked him, he would have given her much more than a drink out of the well – He would have given her living water and she would thirst no more.
 - 2. She was ready to accept his offer right then and said, “Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.”
 - D. Jesus subtly and carefully brought the matter of her sin and immorality into the conversation.

John 4:16 Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.**

- 1. He had her cornered and she did what all sinners do, she framed her words to conceal her sin, while trying not to outright lie.

John 4:17 The woman answered and said, **I have no husband.**

- 2. To which Jesus replied:

John 4:17-18 ...Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

- II. Now the woman tries to control and direct the conversation.
- A. First, she tries to identify herself with religion – the same religion He is talking about.
- John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, **Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.**
- 1. She is trying to impress him by acknowledging him as a prophet and by appearing to have discernment in spiritual matters.
 - B. Now the woman, instead of facing her immorality and sin, which was where the Lord had brought the focus, she simply tries to start talking religious controversies.

John 4:20 **Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.**

- 1. She is doing the same thing that people like her do today.

2. She is saying that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob worshipped here, but you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.
 3. She confronts someone who is trying to rescue her soul and challenges him about the truth he believes.
 4. She wants to instruct someone in worship and the truths of religion while she is living in open fornication.
 5. She tries to fabricate some error in him and those He is identified with to keep her sin out of the conversation.
- C. She certainly does have some knowledge of religious matters, and religious heritage.
1. But as it always does for an unconverted person, that knowledge only serves as a shield and weapon to hide and defend their sin.
 2. She has no real understanding, but she tries to make Jesus believe that she worships God – just in her own way.

III. Jesus is still in control of the conversation and He dismisses her attempt to drag him into a religious argument with her about something irrelevant.

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.

A. He then states the cold, hard facts about her:

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

- B. He basically tells her that she has no idea what she is talking about.
1. That her so called “worship” was nothing but superstition and emotion and hero worship.
 2. No matter what she thought, she was not worshipping God.
 3. That her worship was unacceptable to God.
- C. He said, **“We know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.”**
1. You cannot make up your own religion and worship as you please and be of God.
 2. If you are going to come to God you must come the way everyone else has come.
 3. The church is the ground and pillar of the truth and it is still the means God uses to save the lost and do the work of God in this world.
 4. Anyone who rejects the church is rejecting Jesus Christ – for it is his body and the means by which He has chosen to do his work on earth in this age.

IV. How do people like this woman worship?

A. One thing we can be sure of is that they do not worship the way Jesus said true worshippers do.

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.

1. They do not worship the Father.
2. They do not worship in spirit.
3. They do not worship in truth.
4. Their worship is not accepted by God because He does not seek such to worship Him.

- B. True worshippers worship the Father – those who worship “they know not what” worship other things.
 - 1. Their fathers, or their traditions, or their nation, – as the woman demonstrated when she said, “Our fathers worshipped in this mountain.”
 - 2. False worshippers worship their religion – not the Father in Heaven.
 - 3. Their worship services are about getting all emotional and proud about how great they are – which is clothed by lots of praise about what all “God has done for them” and “how He has blessed them” because they are so successful.
 - 4. The focus is on earthly things and emotion, rather than the majesty and power and honor of Almighty God.
- C. True worshippers worship in spirit – false worshippers worship in emotion.
 - 1. They are moved to emotion by story-telling, hero worship, and music.
 - 2. They consider emotional feelings evidence of the Spirit of God.
 - 3. Everything about the order of their service and the goal of those leading the service is to raise the emotions of the people to a state where they lose control of themselves.
 - 4. We now have “laughing revivals” where the whole crowd is laughing uncontrollably and they all think it is a might manifestation and working of the Spirit of God.
 - 5. And they still call it church and they call it worship.
 - 6. Their heart responds with emotion to music, to story-telling, to hero worship – but it does not respond to truth with emotion.
 - 7. Jesus would say to them the same thing He said to this woman: “Ye worship ye know not what.”
- D. True worshippers worship in truth.
 - 1. They are moved to emotion by truth – not by the beat of music, the telling of fables, or the exaltation of supermen and superwomen.
 - 2. They are moved to emotion by the truth of their sinfulness and unworthiness before God.
 - 3. They are moved to emotion by the truth of God, his love, his mercy, his redemption, and his promises for those who love Him.
 - 4. THIS is a true work of the Spirit of God – because He is called the Spirit of Truth, and we were told by Jesus that the Spirit of God would lead us unto all truth.
 - 5. So true worshippers are moved to emotion by the knowledge that Holy Spirit of God is visiting them with the truth.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

- 6. This is what it means to worship in spirit.
- 7. Worship is not without emotion, but it is not about emotion.
- 8. You can have emotion without the truth, but you cannot have the truth without emotion – if you are one of God’s children.

1 Corinthians 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; (charity)