

Last week in beginning to examine our Savior's encounter with this Samaritan woman—we collected our thoughts around the imagery of "living water"—[1] The GIFT of living water (v10)—where we learned that by living water our Savior referred to the gift of eternal life deposited in Him by His Father and communicated to thirsty souls through the Holy Spirit...

[2] The NATURE of living water (vv13-14)—where we learned that this living water satisfies, its abundant, and eternal—that is—this water meets the deepest spiritual needs of a man's soul—it provides spiritual water to a dry and parched soul—it reconciles that soul with God, through a crucified and resurrected Saviour, it gives eternal life...

[3] The NEED FOR living water (vv15-18)—where our Savior pointed out her sin of adultery and fornication—this was intended to create within her a thirst that could only be quenched by believing upon Him—thus far in the discussion she was thinking only in terms of physical water and needs—in order to awaken within her a deeper thirst and need—our Savior points out her sin...

John Calvin—"When Christ perceived that jeers and scoffs were her only reply to what He had said, He applied an appropriate remedy to this disease, by striking the woman's conscience with a conviction of her sin..."

Thus—in vv19-26 our Savior elaborates on a statement He made back in v10—"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink"—that is—He now more fully and directly identifies Himself as the Messiah who has ushered in a new and better Covenant in fulfillment to the Old Covenant—remember this is the primary point of this book—to identify Christ as the Messiah, Mediator of a New Covenant, and Savior of the world...

- I. The WHERE of NC Worship—vv19-22
- II. The WHAT of NC Worship—v23
- III. The WHY of NC Worship—vv24-26

#### I. The WHERE of New Covenant Worship

1. Now—before I come to this first point—I want to begin by briefly giving a little history of the Samaritan people...
2. The problem started after Solomon's reign when the nation was divided into two kingdom—the Southern and Northern...
3. The Southern kingdom—called Judah— had Jerusalem as its capital and retained the sacred temple of God...
4. The Northern kingdom—called Israel—had Samaria as its capital—and remained without the sacred temple...
5. Both of these nations would eventually be taken into captivity—the Northern kingdom first in the 8th century...
6. The Assyrian army destroyed Samaria, taking most of the inhabitants captive—they left only the poor and ignorant...
7. The Assyrians then brought into Samaria other captives of other nations, mixing the various nations together...
8. Thus—the Samaritans were basically a mixed people—Jew and Gentile—who then mixed their religions together...
9. Thus—the Samaritans believed much of the OT—especially the fact that God would eventually send His Messiah...
10. In fact—they believed the first five books of the OT, but rejected the remaining books—Joshua through Malachi..

11. Furthermore—in addition to this—they also eventually constructed their own temple in Samaria on Mount Gerizim...
12. Though the Jews would eventually destroy the Samaritan's temple—Mount Gerizim became a sacred mountain...
13. So—the Samaritans and the Jews didn't like one another—there was a very long and confrontational history...
14. V19—"The woman said to Him, Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet"—she conceded He was a prophet but not the Messiah...
15. In other words because He told her things unknown—she admitted that He had to be a prophet sent from God...
16. If you remember—Nicodemus also confessed this, 3:2—"Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him..."
17. Thus—it seems likely that her eyes are beginning to be opened—as she now concedes that He was a prophet...
18. But—if this lady was going to drink from the living water He gives—she must see Him as more than a prophet...
19. I suggest that this is the connection between her confession that Christ was a prophet and her question about worship...
20. That is—she was becoming concerned about the nature of true religion—HOW should God be approached...
21. Thus—everything our Savior says in vv21-25 about NC worship—is to show this lady His Messianic identity...
22. V20—"Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship..."
23. That is—the Samaritans worshiped on Mount Gerizim—whereas the Jews worshiped on Mount Zion in Jerusalem...
24. V21—"Jesus said to her, Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father..."
25. V22—"You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews"—that is—the Samaritans were in error...
26. The Jews were right to worship God in Jerusalem—this was the place where God determined to meet with man...
27. The temple was the place where God's special presence resided—it was His house—where He was made known...
28. Yet—our Savior makes an amazing claim—under the NC—worship will no longer be restricted to any single location...
29. Mal.1:11—"For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts..."
30. 1Tim.2:8—"Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension..."
31. Thus—Jesus says—"the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father..."
32. [1] NC worship is no longer restricted to a specific PLACE—this of course is in contrast to worship in the OC...
33. V22—"You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews"—that is—the Jews were right to worship in Jerusalem..
34. It was in Jerusalem that God's temple existed—and it was within that temple God's special covenantal presence dwelt...
35. Thus—within the OC Jews were commanded to return to Jerusalem three times a year for various festivals...
36. But—according to our Savior, under the NC, the worship will never again be restricted to physical location...

37. There are those who would believe the temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem and worship will again be tied to a physical location...
38. But—the entire point of v21 is a time is coming, and now is, under the NC, where physical location will no longer matter...
39. Now—the reason why NC worship is no longer restricted to a specific place is because—Christ is God's NC temple...
40. And Christ has Himself promised, Matt.18:20—"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them..."
41. This is OC language originally applied to God's covenant presence in the temple—there He dwelt in their midst...
42. Thus—Christ means that under the NC—He Himself, by His Spirit, is present in every place His people have gathered together...
43. That is—in every local church—Christ, by His Spirit is present, just as God was uniquely present in the OC temple...
44. [2] NC worship is no longer restricted to a specific PEOPLE—this again is in contrast to worship in the OC...
45. In the OC worship was largely restricted to the nation of Israel—thus it was restricted to the temple in Jerusalem...
46. But—under the NC—worship would be extended throughout the world—and include every nation and tongue...
47. Thus—the reason why NC worship is no longer restricted to a specific people is because—the church is Christ's body...
48. And because Christ is everywhere present by His Spirit—His body is comprised of every nation and tongue...
49. Thus—worship under the NC is spiritual—there's a spiritual temple, a spiritual priesthood, and spiritual sacrifices...

## II. The WHAT of New Covenant Worship

1. V23—"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him..."
2. Christ brought in the New Covenant and thus New Covenant worship—"the hour is coming [the time], and now is..."
3. By "hour" is meant a certain and specific time—it's the hour of the NC—the time foretold by the OT prophets...
4. Jesus says—that within this "hour" or "time"—"true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth..."
5. "True worshipers" are in contrast to false worshipers that largely characterized both the Samaritans and Jews...
6. That is—"True worshipers" regardless if they're Jew or Samaritan—"worship the Father in spirit and truth"...
7. [1] NC worship is worship of the Father—three times our Savior refers to "the Father" in relation to NC worship...
8. Now—this does not mean—that true worshippers in the OC didn't worship God or know God as their Father...
9. But—it is assert that within the NC there is a fuller revelation of the character of God as our gracious Father...
10. Thus—throughout the Psalms rarely, if ever, is God addressed as Father, but as God, Lord, Rock, Strongtower, etc...
11. But within the NC—God has revealed Himself clearer as our Father, in and for the sake of, the Lord Jesus Christ...
12. Let me simply say here as well—that true NC worship is worship of the Father through the Son, by the Spirit...

13. I fear that at times people forget about the Father—they come to worship Jesus—and think little of the Father...
14. Should Christ be worshiped—absolutely—but Christ must be worshiped as Mediator who leads us to the Father...
15. [2] NC worship is worship IN SPIRIT—that is—it's worship WITH THE SPIRIT and worship BY THE SPIRIT...
16. [a] With the spirit—that is—true worship is with the spirit or heart—in contrast to mere external formalism...
17. To worship God rightly—we must worship Him with all our hearts—with all our minds, affections, and wills...
18. Ps.47:7—"For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with understanding" Ps.86:12—"I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart..."
19. Ps.51:17—"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise..."
20. Notice—*spirit* and *heart* are synonymous—they refer to the same thing—true worship is in the spirit or heart...
21. Furthermore—one of the many sacrifices NC priests are to offer is the sacrifice of a broken and contrite spirit...
22. That is—a heart that's broken over its sin—a heart that's humbled before the might and holy character of God...
23. [b] By the Spirit—that is—true worship is with the spirit and by the Spirit—empowered by the Spirit of Christ...
24. Rev.1:10—"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day"—that is—he was worshipping God BY the Holy Spirit of Christ...
25. Phil.3:3—"For we are the (true) circumcision, who worship God in (by) the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh..."
26. The work of the Holy Spirit is necessary for every aspect of worship—He shows us our sin and our Savior...
27. [3] NC worship is worship IN TRUTH—that is—it's worship in fulfillment of OT types and agreement to NT Scripture...
28. [a] In fulfillment of OT types—that is—NC worship is worship that's in fulfillment to the OC typical worship...
29. Jn.1:17—"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ"—*truth* meaning in fulfillment of OT promises...
30. [b] In agreement to NT Scripture—that is—NC worship is worship that's in agreement to what God commands...
31. True worship is in harmony to what God has commanded in His word—it's in harmony to the truth of Holy Scripture...
32. Matt.15:7-9—"Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men..."
33. [i] Failure to worship God in spirit, v8—"these people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me..."
34. [ii] Failure to worship God in truth, v9—"And in vain they worship Me, teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men..."
35. Now—let me simply, before I leave this second heading—make one application—not all worship is acceptable...
36. This can be illustrated from the very beginning of worship—Cain and Able both brought sacrifices to God...
37. Gen.4:4-5—"And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering..."
38. Now—it's debated why God did not accept Cain's offering—some say because he brought the wrong sacrifice...

39. The OT tells us he brought from the fruit of the ground, whereas, Abel brought—"the firstborn of his flock and of their fat..."
40. Or else—it's possible that Cain brought the right sacrifice but he failed to bring it in the right spirit or heart...
41. For the NT tells us—that Abel offered his sacrifice BY FAITH—the implication being, Cain offered his without faith...
42. Both are necessary and equally important—we must bring WHAT God commands and we must bring it HOW He commands it...
43. Furthermore—this passage would also teach us—that true and acceptable worship is with the heart and mind...
44. That is to say—we must worship God with our affections as well as our understanding—the heart and mind...
45. It's not a good thing to have said of us what Jesus said of the Samaritans—"You worship what you do not know..."
46. Thus—in summary of the WHAT of NC worship—let me suggest three things are essential to true worship...
47. FAITH—we must offer up our spiritual sacrifices through Christ—that is—with faith in Christ as our Mediator...
48. LOVE—that is—we must offer our sacrifices with love for God—love for who He is and for all that He does...
49. FEAR—that is—we must approach God with a holy fear and awe—a deep knowledge of God's perfections...

### III. The WHY of New Covenant Worship

1. V24—"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"—that is—the necessity for spiritual worship is rooted in the very nature of God...
2. God is Spirit—that is—He is spiritual—He doesn't have a physical body—He is one, perfect, undivided Spirit...
3. Thus—because God is Spirit—"He MUST be worshiped in spirit and truth"—that is—a spiritual being must be worshiped spiritually...
4. In other words—true and acceptable worship must accord to the spiritual nature of God—it must be in spirit and truth...
5. [1] True worship necessitates a spiritual birth—true worshipers worship the Father both in spirit and in truth...
6. If true worship is in the spirit (or from the heart)—then no person can acceptably worship God without a new heart...
7. Jn.3:3—"Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God..."
8. [2] True worship includes the whole Trinity—we worship the Father, by the Spirit, through the merits of Christ...
9. Eph.2:18—"For through Him (Christ) we both have access (Jews and Gentiles) by one Spirit to the Father..."
10. [3] True worship entails fellowship with God—the Father is seeking true worshipers—who worship Him acceptably...
11. This simply means—God desires to be worshiped—He rejoices in the fellowship and praises of His people...
12. True worship is nothing more or less—than the corporate and personal fellowship of God with His people...