

A CALL TO WORSHIP (part 2)

John 4:23-24



March 10, 2019 | DAVID ANDERSON

Have you ever had one of those moments where you see your children or grandchildren liberated from the concerns of life? Maybe they are twirling in the gusts of wind on a breezy day. Maybe they spontaneously dance to their favorite praise song. It's a moment when they don't have a care in the world and they delight in God and His creation and delight in being a cherished son or daughter. There is no fear and things are wildly free but safe.

I think God waits for all eternity for this moment to occur in us, for that moment when we decide not to hide anything or prove ourselves worthy of love or pretend or impress. It's a moment of freedom and it is raw and it is unguarded and it is messy and it is glorious. It's that moment when you say: I've been told all of my life that God loves me; I'm going to put this love to the test.

I think this is the kind of moment the Samaritan woman has in John 4. Jesus is on to her. He says, "... for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband" (John 4:18).

Jesus is a penetrating prophet who exposes our souls. He knows every aspect of our being and He pursues us anyway. His invitation is: "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life" (4:14).

Jesus is offering this Samaritan woman a new kind of human life. His question, "Do you want to give up the stagnant water of this world and come to Me for living water? Do you want to give up the pathetic quests of the world for an adventure of a lifetime? Do you want to give up broken, worldly appetites for a hunger and thirst for the living God?"

Jesus came to unite heaven and earth, and this union isn't going to take place in holy temples or on the holy mountains anymore. Worship is not going to come through Herod's temple in Jerusalem, nor is it going to come through the Samaritan's temple on Mt. Gerizim. It's going to happen through His body. In John 2, Jesus says, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up" (vs. 19).

The Levitical priesthoods, the Mosaic Law, the sacrifices and festivals all pointed to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We have a brand new High Priest and a "once and for all" sacrifice that ends all sacrifices. Jesus is the true temple, the place where heaven opened and the angels of God ascend and descend.

To this desolate, ostracized, broken Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, Jesus turns, looks her in the eyes with love and tenderness and says, "Let me turn you into a worshiper who worships in spirit and truth!" Jesus looks into your eyes with love and tenderness and says, "Let me turn you into a worshiper who worships in spirit and truth!"

²³ "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. ²⁴ "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT	WORSHIP IN TRUTH
<p>Before our new birth by the Holy Spirit, we can go to church and exercise our flesh in all the physical trappings and rituals of religion. We are flesh and “that which is born of the flesh is flesh” (John 3:6). Only that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. True worship cannot happen in the flesh but from “spirits” that have been made alive by the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>When the Holy Spirit makes us alive in the spirit, we now can see and embrace truth—the Truth, Jesus Christ. Jesus says, I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6). We cannot worship God however we want. As Jesus says to the Samaritan woman in vs. 22, you are sincere but you are sincerely wrong: “you worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.”</p>
<p>The Samaritan woman says that worship is about location, finding the right temple, having the right priesthood. Jesus says that God is spirit and worship is not about being in the right location at the right time; it’s about a genuine, humble exchange between the Holy Spirit and your spirit.</p>	<p>Worship must engage our emotions and must engage our thoughts. Our goal is not to work ourselves up into an emotional frenzy without the solid underpinnings of who God has declared Him to be. Worship comes from His people who are deeply emotional, and are deeply emotional for sound doctrine and truth about their loving God.</p>
<p>All human religious systems begin with outward trappings. The assumption is that the external motions will influence the internal. Only Christian worship begins by the Holy Spirit changing the internal and allowing His changes to express themselves outwardly.</p>	<p>Worshipping passionately from your “spirit” is critical, but so is worshipping from God’s revealed truth. Jesus doesn’t want you here worshipping a false view of God that is filled with errors. You can sincerely believe that you can worship together and not share fundamental and basic truths about the One, True God, but you are wrong.</p>

WORSHIP AND YOU

Jesus says the hour is coming and now is. Worship is not about the right location or the right time; it’s about a genuine, humble exchange between God’s truth, the Holy Spirit and your spirit.

God’s invitation to you today is to worship His loving and gracious Son in spirit and in truth.

What type of genuine, humble exchange between God’s Truth, the Holy Spirit and your spirit is Jesus inviting you into today?