The Gospel of John
**4.X— … TRUE WORSHIPERS – JOHN 4:16–24**

**Pre-message reminders**

* **Serving at BFAM Conference – Please see the flyer in your bulletin**
* **Pastors Jerry/Kimberly have been out on a break but are back next weekend**
* **Pastor Jonathan and Marlene just had their baby but will be returning soon**
* **Shepherd Cole Dirmann Born last Sunday, 9/19/21, 7lbs 2oz**

**Read Text**

**John 4:16–24 (ESV)** **16**Jesus said to her, “Go, **call your husband**, and come here.” **17**The woman answered him, “**I have no husband**.” Jesus said to her, “**You are right in saying**, ‘I have no husband’; **18**for you have had **five husbands**, and the one you now have is not your husband. **What you have said is true**.” **19**The woman said to him, “Sir, **I perceive that you are a prophet**. **20**Our fathers **worshiped** on **this mountain**, but you say that in **Jerusalem** is the **place** where people ought to worship.” **21**Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when **neither** on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. **22**You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23**But **the hour is coming**, and **is now here**, when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father **in spirit and truth**, for **the Father is seeking such** people to worship him. **24God is spirit**, and those who worship him must **worship in spirit and truth**.”

In our text, Jesus makes a simple request that exposes a situation.

**V16** 16Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

Did she hesitate in answering this question? Did she begin to feel a knot in her stomach? Did she say within herself “not again?” Maybe she thought “I can lie; this man doesn’t know what is going on.” Or maybe she just wanted to give the briefest response without lying?”

**V17a** 17The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” …

It was a shading of the truth but we all know how to do that.

So Jesus helped her out with a word of knowledge by saying

**V17b-18** 17… ~~Jesus said to her~~, “**You have well said, ‘I have no husband**,’ 18for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

Jesus **commended her for the truth** she told and through a word of knowledge (1Cor 12:8), Jesus brought light into this woman’s life that exposed her life. He **brought light and not shame**. If He wanted to shame her, it would have been recorded that he went into more detail. As the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5); He wanted to illuminate an area in her life that needed to be opened to the light, to the truth. **When delicate surgeries are done, they are done in much light**.

**John 8:12 (ESV)** **12**Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Now she had to decide if she would shut her eyes to the light presented to her or stand in the light until the eyes of her life adjusted to it. **She could have argued**.

**V19** 19The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

We may not see much on the outside but note her progression as revealed in the way she addressed Jesus:

John 4:9 “…How is it you being **a Jew**, ask a drink from me …

John 4:11 “… **Sir**, You have nothing to draw with …

John 4:19 “… **Sir**, I perceive you are a **prophet**.

John 4:29 (ESV)“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. **Can this be the** **Christ**?”

**John 12:46 (ESV)** **46**I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

**V20** 20Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”

Is she changing the subject or asking a question. Does she jump to a religious question as a diversion or is there something of substance here?

There were theological differences between the Samaritans and Jews. The Samaritans believed that the bible consists of only the first 5 books of Moses and that the place to worship was not in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah (1Kings 8:29) but on Mount Gerizim the place Moses instructed the children of Israel to pronounce the blessings of the law as they entered the Promise Land under Joshua (Deut. 11:29).

Did she want to bring God an offering for sin but was now not sure where to take it? DID SHE JUST WANT TO GO TO CHURCH and is now asking which one?

Whether her question was an authentic question or a diversion, Jesus, was not diverted from pointing her to the Father.

**V21-22** 21Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

**The hour is coming**: The first Samaritan temple was built on Mount Gerizim in 450BC and destroyed by the Jews in 130-110BC. The temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed by 70 AD.

**Worship is not dedicated to a certain place or posture**. Paul and Silas worshipped beaten from a dingy prison cell and Jonah out of the belly of a great fish.

**Acts 16:25–26 (ESV)** **25**About midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns** to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, **26**and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened.

**Jonah 2:1–2 (ESV)**Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, **2**saying, “I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

**Salvation is of the Jews** – seed of Abraham, tribe of Judah, House of David, city of Bethlehem – psalms and prophetic books

**Romans 3:1–2 (ESV)** Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2**Much in every way. To begin with, **the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God**.

**V23-24** 23But 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.”

**Notes: - It is not where you worship but who you worship (God the Father) and how you worship (by the spirit & truth)**

1. God is **Spirit** (not flesh) and **Father** (a Person)
	1. **Romans 8:8 (ESV)** **8**Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
	2. **1 Corinthians 1:29 (NKJV)** 29that no flesh should glory in His presence.
	3. **Psalm 103:13–14 (ESV)13** As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. **14** For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.
	4. **Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)** **17**The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; **he will rejoice over you with gladness**; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud **singing**.
2. **In spirit** (the root of all you have and are) **and truth** (according to his word) should be the attitude of our worship
	1. **Luke 10:27–28 (NKJV)** 27So he answered and said, “ ‘*You shall love the Lord your God with all your* ***heart****, with all your* ***soul****, with all your* ***strength****, and with all your* ***mind****,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’* ” 28And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”
	2. **John 17:17 (ESV) 17**Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
3. Remember worship is not only we are **seeking** God, but that God is seeking us!”
	1. **2 Chronicles 16:9 (ESV)** **9**For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.”

Dr. Steve Schell

“It is so easy to stand there praying, saying all the right things, with my mind still asleep or focused on something else. I can be halfway through the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6:9-13) and suddenly realize that I haven't a clue what I just said and that I said those things with no particular awareness that God was listening to me. I'm just reciting words I've memorized. They're good words when I actually stop to **think about them**, but until then, until I wake up inside, until I become **conscious of the One to whom I was supposedly talking**, it's just a morning ritual that I do so I can check it off my list.

But if I stop and **wake up my spirit**, if I **become aware of God** and sense that He is with me in that room, if I **wake up my mind** and really think about what I am saying, those same words will guide me into one important exchange after another. A conversation will take place between **my spirit and Him**. And I know when that change takes place inside me. And what Jesus teaches us today is that God does too, and it brings Him great joy. He says the Father actually searches for people who will worship Him that way.

So resting beside Jacob's well, Jesus explained to a Samaritan woman what it means to truly worship God, and in doing so He was teaching her how to bring joy to God's heart…”

**Worship the Lord with your:**

1. **Time**
2. **Attention**
3. **Love**
4. **Obedience**