



Worship – Worshipping in spirit and in Truth

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL (JOHN 4)

John 4: 19-26

- ▶ ¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

John 4: 19-26

- ▶ ²¹ Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

John 4: 19-26

- ▶ ²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”
- ▶ ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.”

John 4: 19-26

- ▶ ²¹ Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ **Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.** ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

First Some Background

- ▶ The Samaritans were a mix of Israelites left by the Assyrians when Israel was exiled and the foreign nations the Assyrians exiled from other places.
- ▶ When Judah returned from Babylonian exile and rebuilt the temple and Jerusalem, the Samaritans were not allowed to participate.
- ▶ They built their own rival temple that was later destroyed by the Hasmonaeanes.
- ▶ The Samaritans continued to consider this location sacred.

Comments and Reflections

- ▶ Jesus is introducing a change in worship - from the shadow of worshipping in a particular place with particular rituals to the reality of worshipping in spirit and truth.

Comments and Reflections

- ▶ The woman seems to be asking: where is the right place to worship?
- ▶ What is Jesus talking about?
- ▶ What does Jesus mean by spirit?
- ▶ What does Jesus mean by truth?
- ▶ If it is not about worshipping at a temple on this mountain or that mountain, do temples enter into this at all?

Truth – Not Shadows or Symbols



- ▶ The writer of Hebrews describes the tabernacle which is also the temples that followed. They were all temporary by their very nature.
- ▶ They were built to specifications given to Moses by God and had the same floorplan of a most holy place and holy place inside the innermost court.
- ▶ They represented the true dwelling place of God.

Hebrews 9:11-14

- ▶ 11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:11-14

- ▶ 13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Jesus – The Sufficient Sacrifice

- ▶ Moses sprinkled the blood of calves to provide temporary cleansing.
- ▶ Jesus's sprinkled blood in the true dwelling place of God provides permanent cleansing.

Hebrews 9: 19-28

- ▶ When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. 20 He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” 21 In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. 22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Hebrews 9: 19-28

- ▶ 23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.

Hebrews 9: 19-28

- ▶ 26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Thoughts



- ▶ The curtain separating God and man has been torn by God from the top to the bottom. (Matt. 27:51)
- ▶ We can now boldly approach the throne of God.

Hebrews 10: 19-22

- ▶ 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Comments and Reflections

- ▶ What makes a temple different from any other building?
- ▶ A temple is where God resides.
- ▶ Although this is a radical change to their thinking, it is really a call back to the way things were before everything fell apart.
- ▶ Let's look at Genesis 2 and 3...

Genesis 1: 31 - 2: 3

- ▶ 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.
- ▶ Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. ² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he **rested** from all his work. ³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he **rested** from all the work of creating that he had done.

God's Creation Was Just the Way He Wanted It

- ▶ God knew when to stop. What He had made was very good. So, He rested and enjoyed His creation and spent time with those He has made in His image.

Genesis 3: 8-9

- ▶ 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

More Reflections and Questions

- ▶ God and His people had spent time together before in the cool of the evening.
- ▶ Adam and Eve knew the sound of God walking in the garden.
- ▶ They knew the intimacy of talking with God face to face.
- ▶ Where is God residing?
- ▶ Where is the temple?

More Reflections and Questions

- ▶ The temple is in the garden. Heaven and earth overlap. God made His dwelling place with men.
- ▶ The writer of Hebrews (Hebrews 9-10) talks about how the shadow of temple worship under the old covenant has found reality in Jesus.
- ▶ Where does God reside now?

1 Corinthians 3:16

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Cor. 3:16)

Other verses that say we are God's temple: 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 1 Peter 2:5; Eph. 2:19-22

Discussion

- ▶ How does having the Holy Spirit within us help us to worship in spirit and in truth? (Romans 8:26-27)
- ▶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Discussion

- ▶ How is this like getting back to the way things were in the beginning?
- ▶ How does this help us in worshipping in spirit and in truth?
- ▶ What are the implications of God's Spirit living within us?

Romans 12

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. ⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others

Romans 12

.⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully

Romans 12

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵
Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶
Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be
willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be
conceited.

Romans 12

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

How to be Living Sacrifices	Worshipping in spirit and truth
Associate with people of low position	Live in harmony with one another
Don't be conceited	Don't be proud
Don't repay evil for evil	Be devoted to one another in brotherly love
Bless those who persecute you	Honor one another
Rejoice with those who rejoice	Share with God's people
Mourn with those who mourn	Practice hospitality

Some Final Thoughts

- ▶ **We are the temple of God.**
- ▶ **Wherever we go in this world, God is working through us to bless and redeem the world around us.**
- ▶ **God is still fulfilling His promise to Abraham that through his seed all nations of the earth will be blessed.**