

"The Woman at the Well"

Part 6

John 4:1-42

Introduction: Last week in our study of John we looked at the 7 different dispensations of the Bible. We did this because of what Jesus said in John 4:21.

Notice John 4:20-21

There was disagreement between the Jews and the Samaritans as to where worship was to take place. The Samaritans worshipped in Mount Gerizim and the Jews worshipped in Jerusalem. Jesus was very clear that there was a time coming when worship would not be about the place. In this statement Jesus was referring to a different dispensation that was about to begin. When He spoke these Words, they were in the Dispensation of Law, but in Acts 2 the Dispensation of Grace would begin. In the Dispensation of Grace, the issue will not be about the location of worship, but it will be about how we worship. As we move on in these verses Jesus is going to describe for us what true worship is.

➤ **The Subject of Worship**

➤ **Part 2**

Notice John 4:22

Jesus was very straight forward with the Samaritan woman. He told her that she did not even know what she worshipped. How could He say this? Because as an unsaved sinner she did not know God. She thought she was worshipping God, but she was not doing so. As a sinner she had no access to God, nor could she know God on a personal level.

Application:

This is also true of many in our world today. They claim to worship God, but the Truth is they do not know God, nor do they have access to God. They go through their worship rituals, but it is all for nothing. Let us notice what Paul said concerning the people of Athens.

Acts 17:22-25

²² *Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.*

²³ For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

²⁴ God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

The people of Athens worshipped many gods and out of the fear of missing one they set up an altar to the "Unknown God", and they did this so that they would not offend the god they missed. These people offered many sacrifices, but they did not worship the True God. They did not know the True God for they had no relationship with Him.

Notice John 4:22 again.

The Samaritans had their worship all wrong for over 700 years. They went to the wrong place, and they did not know who they even worshipped. They were doing their own thing, and it was all for nothing. Jesus went on to explain to her "WE/THE JEWS" know who they worshipped for salvation was of the Jews. The Jews were following God's revealed plan. When Jesus made this statement, He probably had in mind what God told Abram.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

How would the nation of Israel be a blessing to all the families of the earth? Because of that which would come from this nation.

1. The Bible
2. The Prophets
3. The Covenants
4. The Savior

5. The Kingdom

Salvation was of the Jews and the place to worship was Jerusalem. But in the dispensation to come it would be different. Israel would be placed to the side because of their rejection of their King, but God would not leave Himself without a witness. He would raise up the church, and the church would be His witness in the world until the Rapture and then Israel would come to the forefront again. In the coming dispensation worship would not be about the location any longer.

Notice John 4:23-24

Worship would not be about the external, but it would be about the internal. Both the Samaritans and the Jews were caught up in the outward practices but that was about to change. In the Dispensation of Grace worship would come from within the worshipper. It is about two things. First, it is about spirit. We **MUST** worship God in spirit and in Truth.

Application:

In many churches today worship is based upon feelings and emotions. There is music used to ramp up the emotions of people and they claim this is worship. But True worship does not come from the emotions, but it comes from the heart, and it cannot even happen in an individual until they are born again. True worship is the response to hearing the Truth of God's Word. Before a sinner is born again, they are spiritually dead and they cannot worship God because they do not even know God. True worship is brought about by the Holy Spirit as He stirs the heart of the believer and the believer then worships God in spirit from the heart. Both the Spirit of God and the spirit of man are involved in True worship.

Notice John 4:23-24

The second thing required for True worship is Truth. God **MUST** be worshipped in spirit and in TRUTH. This means that God must be worship for who He is. There are many people who avoid certain characteristics about God, and they focus only on certain points. Some churches will not mention the wrath of God, they will not mention the judgment of God, they refuse to speak about hell and the Lake of Fire. They talk about a God of love and forgiveness. Our God is a God of love and forgiveness, but the other points are also true. So, when this happens these churches have made their own god that is not the True God of the Bible. God **MUST** be worshipped for who He is as He is revealed in the Bible. Anything

apart from this is idolatry, it is like worshipping a golden calf. This is a violation of the First Commandment.

Exodus 20:3

³ *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

Notice the words of Ironside.

"In considering the subject of worship, the highest exercise of which the spirit of man is capable, it is important to remember that there is a great difference between the way it is presented in the two Testaments. In former dispensations God was hidden in large measure. His wisdom and His providence were displayed in creation. His love was seen in His care of those who confided in Him. His grace was declared by the prophets as something yet to be revealed. Consequently, there was no immediate access into the presence of God. The veil was unrent. His word to Israel was, "Do not draw near this place" (Exodus 3:5); "Worship from afar" (24:1). But since the advent of Christ, all is changed. Grace and truth are now revealed. The veil is rent. The way into the holiest is now made clear. In spirit every believer is invited to "draw near ... in full assurance of faith" (Hebrews 10:19-22). The worship of the new creation is based upon the finished work of our blessed Lord. In spirit we enter the immediate presence of the Father in full consciousness of our sonship. Worship is far more than prayer, or the enjoyment of helpful ministry. It is the spirit's adoring occupation with God Himself, not merely in gratitude for His gifts, but because of what He is. It is this that the Father seeks. Worship is lowered as we become occupied with the externals even of Christianity. It reaches its highest point as our spirits are absorbed in contemplation of the matchless perfections of the eternal God, in the light of the cross and the empty tomb."

Application:

This is one reason why it is so important that we study the entire Bible the way we do. We need to know God as He is revealed in Scripture. There are those who operate on feelings and emotions and they have no idea what God is like. They have no teaching of the Scriptures and therefore they create their own god in their minds, and they claim to worship him. This is a major problem today. We considered this on Sunday morning in our study of 2 Kings. The people of Israel in Samaris lacked understanding and it resulted in them being afraid and then becoming slaves. As our world moves closer to the Tribulation this is going to become even worse.

2 Timothy 4:2-5

² **Preach the word;** be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

⁵ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Amos 8:21-22

¹¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

¹² And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

Notice John 4:25

The woman knew of the coming of the Messiah.

Notice John 4:26

Jesus tells her that she is speaking to the Messiah. This woman was saved through this conversation. Let us not miss that she was saved because she heard the Truth. She heard the raw Truth about her sin, and she heard the raw Truth that her religion was worthless.

Conclusion/Application:

It is so important that we know the Truth so that we can share the Truth.

John 8:31-32

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.