

Series – The Whys of Worship – Sermon 2 - 11/10/09 (am)

Why is Place not Paramount in Worship?

John 4:19-26

*Theme: God's worshippers must
worship Him in Spirit and in truth.*

Background—Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

Jesus left Judea to travel to Galilee.

He passed through Samaria.

At Sychar Jesus engaged a woman
in conversation.

4:19-26 has much to teach us about
worship.

A. The Woman of Samaria's Misunderstanding (4:19)

Jews and Samaritans drew
conflicting conclusions from Deut.
12:5.

Jews favoured Jerusalem as the
place to worship.

Samaritans favoured Mt. Gerizim.

The woman's beliefs were shaped
by tradition and prejudice.

She believed that acceptable
worship was *confined* to a
particular place.

Many embrace such a belief today!

Jesus shows that such a belief is
wrong.

B. The Son of God's Teaching **(4:20-26)**

We must set aside our own preferences, prejudices, traditions and wholly accept Jesus' teaching on worship.

Jesus taught that:

1. Acceptable worship is not confined to a particular place (4:21).

Worship may take place wherever Christians gather.

But *what is acceptable worship?*

2. Acceptable worship is worship in spirit and truth (4:22-24).

Worship in Spirit

Spirit or spirit?

spirit preferred (*cf.* 4:24a) ... but both
are true!

True worshippers worship God from
the heart [spirit] and are enabled to
do so by the power of the Spirit. Only
a Christian can worship God, *cf.* Phil.
3:3.

Worship in Truth

a) What we do in worship must be informed by the truth.

Worship must never be thoughtless or mechanical.

Worship must be informed/governed by truth.

True worship is informed worship—
informed by the revelation of God
in the Scriptures and in Jesus.

**b) What we do in worship must
be done truthfully.**

Our worship must not be hypocritical!

We must not be hiding/harboursing
sin in our heart, *cf.* Ps. 66:18.

We must constantly pray Ps. 139:23-
24.

We must not be like those in Matt.
15:8-9.

True worship is an expression of an undivided heart that is in harmony with the truth of God as revealed in His Word.

Conclusion—It's all about Essence!

The ***essence*** of worship – worship in spirit and truth – is the vitally important foundational thing.

It is more important than place.

God's people must come to
worship with the desire/request,
*I want to worship You Lord in spirit
and truth; please help me to do
that.*