

Special Guest Speaker
Worship- John 4
Small Group Notes
February 27 and March 1

Main Point: Worshipping in spirit means we are consumed. Worshipping in truth means we are convinced.

Introduction:

If your house was on fire and you had to grab three things of great value to you, what would you get (besides your family)? (Wait for responses) How do these things reflect priorities in your life?

When you hear the word worship, what comes to mind?

Last week in Romans 7:25, we saw how Paul ended his statement with worship. For our discussion this week, we are going to engage further in what worship means for us as believers that have been transformed by the power of God from death to life. The way in which we are going to understand worship is how Jesus addressed it in the conversation with the woman at the well.

Context: From a historical perspective: Samaritans were not welcome among the Israelites. Earlier in the history of Israel, when it was overtaken by the Babylonians, there were still groups of Israelites that remained in the land, while others were taken away as prisoners. Those that remained began to intermarry with the Assyrians, Babylonians and others that were in the land. Thus, they were not considered as true Israelites anymore. Therefore, for a Jewish man to interact with a Samaritan was frowned upon. Yet, we see how Jesus breaks down the barriers (culturally and socially) in order to show an eternal truth about Himself.

Discuss:

1. Read John 4:7-14

Explain: The Samaritan woman would have been surprised not only that someone was at the well, but also that the person was a Jewish man who wanted to talk. Jesus began the conversation with the woman for one specific reason. For the same reason, He struck up conversations with other people in His ministry. He could tell she had a spiritual thirst that only the living water He alone could offer would quench.

What words stuck out to you that Jesus uses in verses 13-14? What are other verses that you have heard before that reflect these same words? (John 3:16, John 6:51, John 10:10)

What stands out to you about how Jesus spoke to the woman at the well? Why did the conversation surprise her? What people in our community would be surprised if you spoke to them about Jesus? Why?

From understanding the impact of Jesus as the Living Water, he begins to discuss with the Samaritan woman about her perspective and worship.

2. Read John 4:19-24

Explain: Jesus knew the woman's moral history, and it was a tragic record of failure. During their conversation, Jesus brought the woman to face her sinful life. Perhaps uncomfortable with the direction the conversation was going, the Samaritan woman called Jesus a prophet and tried to divert the exchange away from her and her sinfulness to a less personal issue.

What does Jesus' actions reveal about who is invited to worship Him? What would it look like in your life this week to follow Jesus' example of inviting others to worship Him?

How did Jesus describe true worship? What does it look like to worship God "in spirit" (see John 3:3-8; John 1:12-13)? Is it possible to worship God without the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? What does it look like to worship God "in truth" (see Ecclesiastes 5:1-3)?

Read Psalm 24. How do these verses reflect your heart in worship?

3. Read John 4:25-26, 39-42

Explain: In response to Jesus' words about genuine worship, the woman brought up the coming Messiah. She anticipated this long-awaited prophet. Jesus' response no doubt stunned the woman: "I am He." Jesus was God incarnate, "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14) to provide redemption for sinners. The woman found herself in the presence of the One who could forgive her sins and give her new life. We, too, find ourselves in His presence, a truth that should fuel our worship.

We see in this passage how the Samaritan woman was confronted by Jesus with the motives of her worship. Why is it more important for us to realize who (Jesus) we are worshipping more than how (our preferences) we are worshipping?

In verses 39-42, the woman had an encounter with Jesus and went and told others about Him. What does it mean that our worship then should move beyond a worship service experience to our daily lives and conversations?

How can we make worship an example for our family or friends? What are some ways we can ensure to keep the work of Christ our first priority in worship?

Do:

What are some ways to keep the sacrifice of Christ central to your thinking as you seek to worship God throughout the week?

Whether our worship is at church, in our group, or at home, what are ways that we can ready ourselves daily and weekly to meet with God in worship?