

True Worship

“God of the Movement” Series – Part 04

Connect: What is one characteristic you received from your parents that you want to keep, and one you wish you could change?

Hook:

Years ago when the billionaire Howard Hughes died, his company’s public relations director asked the casinos in Las Vegas, where Hughes owned multiple casinos, to show him respect by giving him a minute of silence. For an uncomfortable sixty seconds, the casinos fell eerily silent. Then a pit boss looked at his watch, leaned forward, and whispered, “Okay, roll the dice. He’s had his minute.” (From the book, *Howard Hughes: The Hidden Years*, cited in “Our Daily Bread,” 11/77.)

Wow! Not a great show of sorrow or respect. After just one minute, the pit boss wanted to get back to “business as usual”. I wonder how many people view worship in the same way? They go to church, give God a “good hour” of their time, and then get on with life with little thought of God until the next Sunday rolls around.

In Pastor Brandon’s lesson entitled “*Hit Pause and Worship*”, he spoke about the importance of spending time in the worship of God. Worship should be a priority, not merely a pastime. Today let’s continue the discussion on worship by looking at the story of the woman at the well. She brings up the subject of worship and Jesus teaches us about true worship.

Book:

John 4:20 So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"

John 4:21 Jesus replied, "Believe Me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem.

John 4:22 You Samaritans know very little about the One you worship, while we Jews know all about Him, for salvation comes through the Jews.

John 4:23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship Him that way.

John 4:24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

John 4:25 The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the One who is called Christ. When He comes, He will explain everything to us."

John 4:26 Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

Look:

1. What was the Samaritan woman’s understanding of worship? What was priority for her when it comes to worship?
2. According to verse 22, what does Jesus state is necessary to “know” the One who should be worshipped?
3. When it comes to true worship, does the place and time matter to God?

4. Jesus states that there are true worshipers, which implies that there are others who are not true or real worshippers of God. What are some ways in which evangelical Christians may worship God falsely?
5. What does it mean to worship God “in spirit and in truth”?
6. Why is God looking for or seeking true worshippers?
7. What are some worldly influences that choke out true worship in your life? How should you deal with them?
8. Complete this sentence: If truly worshiping God is my priority, my daily schedule must change by _____.