

Lecture 1- The Kind of Worshippers the Father Seeks

The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” John 4:19-26 (ESV)

Key Concepts

- Worshipping in *spirit and truth*
- Jesus as the one true worshipper who leads every aspect of corporate worship

Lecture Objectives

- Examine John 4 as fundamental to worship
- Explore Jesus’ role in our worshipping as presented in Hebrews 2

Preliminary Questions

- Do you think of the Father as *seeking* worshippers?
- Where does our heart lie when we worship?
- How do we view Christ as worship leader in corporate worship?
- What is the significance of Jesus giving this teaching to a Samaritan woman?
- What does it mean to insist on worshipping in spirit and truth if we are in a church that we believe to be mistaken in its views?
- How does Jesus as the God-Man relate to worship?

The Kind of Worshippers the Father Seeks

“God wants to regulate our hearts first.” *Scotty Smith*

Introduction: There seems to be no end to the so-called “worship wars” in the contemporary church, and they continue to divide the church. Where do we begin our inquiry into Christian worship? John 4:19-23

I. The Father is Seeking Worshippers (vs. 23)

- A. Central to life in God’s world and His purposes in creation is worship!
- B. We are created as worshiping beings
- C. The Father is seeking our exclusive worship

II. The Kind of Worshippers the Father Seeks (vs. 23)

- A. Woman confronted with her sin & asks “where” question of worship
 1. She is asking the wrong question.
 2. What matters most is through whom?

B. Worship in spirit

1. Through the Holy Spirit or from the ‘affections of the heart?’
2. Where does worship originate in the worshipper?

C. Worship in truth

1. In complete and full harmony with His Word and how He is to be worshipped.

2. Both truth and spirit are commanded.

III. The One True Worshipper of the Father (vs. 10 & 24)

- A. Problem: Who worships God this way, in spirit and in truth?
- B. But wait...there is one who worships God in spirit & truth: Jesus Christ!
- C. God seeks and finds true worshipers
 1. We are union with Christ, and only therefore do we offer true worship.
 2. Worship is most fundamentally about the Gospel of grace

“(Worship) is a congregational event, in which Christ mediates our prayers, conducts and leads our praise, and preaches His word to us. He alone is the God-ordained worship leader...the minister in the sanctuary.”

Sinclair Ferguson

IV. The Kind of Worship the Son Presents to the Father (Heb. 2:11-12, 8:1-2, Ps. 22:22-31)

It is Jesus who stands in the congregation, declaring God’s word and singing God’s praise.

- A. “Singing with the Singing Savior” Whose song is Jesus willing to join? Psalm 22:22-31
 1. Christ declares God’s name and sings God’s praise
 2. Song of all nations: Jewish (23) and Gentile (27-28)
 3. Song of all classes: Rich (29a) and poor (26)
 4. Song of all generations: Dead (29b) and yet to be born (30-31)

“We will despise no voice He is pleased to employ, expanding our own music palette when we can, and exercising heroic forbearance when we must.”

Reggie Kidd

- B. Our worship should express both the richness of past expressions of biblical worship and the freshness of present expressions of biblical worship.
 1. Calvin: Introduced singing to the worship service
 2. Tim Keller (New York City): Uses orchestral music, incl. jazz and folk
 3. Scotty Smith: Nashville
 4. Adonai Chapel in Ghana: Familiar hymns with African syncopation to make them truly their own
- C. We ought to be constantly expanding our musical palette
- D. The worship of the local congregation is to be rooted in Christ, yet reflective of the giftedness of the current local congregation.
- E. When led in worship by Christ and a heart focused on Him, the result is worship in spirit and truth.

Conclusion:

Paderewski and “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”

What are the worship implications of Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman?

What is the role of Jesus in our corporate worship and why is this important?