



GIVE HIM GLORY

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





Give Him Glory

ADRIAN ROGERS

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this transcript produced from a live sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This transcript is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

Note: Though it has been transcribed from a version used for broadcast, it may contain stutters, stammers, and other authentic remarks as would be common in a live setting.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright © 2022 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

Transcripts are used by permission of the Rogers Family Trust.



Give Him Glory

SERMON REFERENCE: John 4:4-24

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1971

The greatest commandment is to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. (See Mark 12:29-30.) Keeping this commandment is how we find our blessing and give God glory; it is our ultimate priority, supreme duty, and maximum privilege.

John 4:24 says, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” In context, Jesus said this while journeying through Samaria, which was considered enemy territory for Him (as a Jewish man). Yet, Jesus considered this detour a divine appointment with the woman at the well.

Jesus recognized that this woman was bound by sin and broken by sorrow, thirsty for God. She initially tried to debate religion with Jesus to deflect from the inner turmoil in her heart.

In their conversation, we can first see our urgency to worship the right person: God the Father.

In John 4:23, Jesus says, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”

We must also worship in the right place. In the Gospels, Jesus teaches us that God does not dwell in temples made with hands. Because of Jesus Christ, the holy veil has been torn, and God now dwells in us.

We have the tremendous privilege to worship any place, any time; every day is a holy day, and every place is a sacred place.

Adrian Rogers says, “The significance of coming to church is not primarily to come to worship, but that we bring our worship.”

Additionally, we must worship with the right procedure: in spirit and in truth.

Worship comes from within; we serve God with our spirit first, before we ever serve with our hands and feet. But real worship also has a theological base; our worship rises no higher than our concept of God.

Finally, we must worship for the right purpose.

We don't go to church to be blessed, but rather, to bless. It's only after we forget about ourselves and begin to worship God that we will receive the blessings of our worship.

Life Application

Do you worship the one true God, every day, in spirit and in truth, for the right purpose? Examine your heart today, and begin giving Him glory for what He has done in your life.



Give Him Glory

SERMON REFERENCE: John 4:4-24

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1971

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The way to give God glory is to worship Him in spirit and in truth.
 - i) John 4:24
- b) We may experience a boring church service, but we will never be in a boring worship service.
 - i) Worshipping God is one of the most thrilling, exciting, fulfilling and meaningful things that we can possibly experience.
- c) To learn to worship God in spirit and in truth will turn the monotonous into the momentous.
- d) To worship God is the highest good.
 - i) It is our supreme duty and our maximum privilege.
- e) Jesus, the greatest teacher, was asked the greatest question: What is the greatest commandment?
 - i) Jesus answers this question in Mark 12:29-30.
 - (1) One Lord, one love.
 - ii) If we keep this commandment, we'll be blessed.
 - iii) If we fail to keep this commandment, we will suffer.
- f) In John 4, some form of the word "worship" is used at least ten times.
- g) John 4:4
 - i) Jesus is on a journey to Galilee.
 - (1) Normally in that day, a Jew traveling from the southern part of Israel to the northern part would detour around Samaria.
 - (a) The detour was the easiest way to go along the banks of the Jordan River.
 - (b) They also abhorred the Samaritans, and the Samaritans did not like the Jews.
 - (2) In 721 B.C., the people of Israel who had rebelled against God, were carried away captive.
 - (1) The captors took the strongest, the most noble, and the most educated of the people; but they left the sick, the weak, the poor, and the illiterate in the land.
 - (2) The people who were left in this land called Samaria began to intermarry.
 - (a) Some Babylonian stragglers also came in and began to marry with these Jews who were left behind, creating a mixed race.
 - (b) The Babylonians brought their paganism with them.
 - (3) The Jews would have nothing to do with the Samaritans.
 - ii) The Samaritans wanted to go to Jerusalem to worship, but they were not allowed.
 - (1) They built their own place of worship on Mount Gerizim.
 - (a) So, there were now two places of worship:
 - (i) Mount Zion, where the temple was.
 - (ii) Mount Gerizim, where the Samaritans worshipped.
 - iv) Jesus had a divine appointment in Samaria.
 - (1) There was a woman there who needed redemption; she needed to be saved.



- (2) This was not accidental or incidental, but it was a fundamental purpose for our Lord to go through Samaria.
- h) John 4:5-19
 - i) This woman was bound by sin.
 - (1) She had a thirsty soul.
 - (a) She was thirsting for God.
 - (2) She had gone from husband to husband, from affair to affair, and it had all turned to dust in front of her.
 - ii) She was blinded by Satan.
 - (1) She was bound by sin because Satan had lied to her.
 - (2) Proverbs 20:17
 - iii) She is now broken by sorrow.
 - (1) She has been discarded by these men.
 - (2) Sin has its thrills, but it doesn't have its joys.
 - (a) Sin thrills, and then it kills.
 - (b) Sin fascinates, then it assassinates.
 - iv) But Jesus must needs go through Samaria.
 - (1) This was a divine appointment, and Jesus begins to talk with her about living water.
- i) At first, the woman began to do what many people tend to do when we start to zero in on their spiritual need: she began to argue denominations.
 - i) People would rather argue religion and denominations than talk about salvation.
 - ii) John 4:20
- j) Jesus then begins to talk to her about the subject of worship.
 - i) What she needed was an encounter with the living God, and that encounter is called worship.
- k) This woman only knew of two options for worship:
 - i) She could worship at Mount Gerizim, the place of worship built by the Samaritans.
 - ii) Or perhaps in Jerusalem.
- l) The Samaritans worshipped with zeal.
 - i) They rejected most of the Old Testament.
 - (1) They only kept five books of the Old Testament, known as the Pentateuch.
 - ii) They still make animal sacrifices.
 - iii) They had zeal, but not according to knowledge.
- m) The Jews worshipped in Jerusalem.
 - i) They believed all of the Bible of that day, which was the Old Testament.
 - (1) They believed it from Genesis to Malachi.
 - ii) They worshipped in the temple, but their religion was dead.
 - (1) Mark 7:6
- n) Between the Samaritans and the Jews of that day, you had uniformed zeal on one hand and dead orthodoxy on the other.
 - i) We have basically the same thing today when people try to worship.
 - (1) The Samaritans worshipped in ignorance, but they had zeal.
 - (2) The Jews had the truth, but they rejected the spirit.



- ii) But we don't have to choose between enthusiastic heresy or lifeless orthodoxy.
- iii) Neither option knew the truth of what it is to worship.
- o) John 4:21-24
- p) Today's message will take a look at what it means to worship in spirit and in truth.

2) WE MUST WORSHIP THE RIGHT PERSON (JOHN 4:23)

- a) We must worship the right person for it to be true worship.
 - i) The right person is God the Father.
- b) Idolatry is to worship the wrong god.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 8:6
 - ii) We have those today who don't want to call God "Father."
 - (1) They want to call God "mother" or "father/mother/god."
 - iii) The Bible says that God is Father.
- c) Father is not what God is like; Father is what God is.
 - i) That is the very nature of God.
 - ii) That does not demean or demote anybody.
 - (1) It simply means that God is Father.
 - iii) We are seeing a subtle move today from Father God to Mother Earth.
 - iv) But we must worship the right person.
- d) Jesus called God "Father" more than 70 times in the Gospels.
 - i) It was His favorite term for the Almighty.
 - ii) Think about the nature of God:
 - (1) His omnipotence
 - (a) His mighty power; He can do anything.
 - (2) His omniscience
 - (a) He knows everything.
 - (3) His omnipresence
 - (a) He is everywhere.
 - iii) Many of us have difficulty understanding God's nature, but we can all relate to Him as Father.
 - (1) John 4:23
 - iv) We don't have to understand what God does or how He does it in order to love Him or experience His love for us.
 - (1) Romans 11:34
 - (2) We don't have to know all that God does for Him to be our Father.
 - (3) Little children can look to Him and say, "Father."
- e) Galatians 4:6

3) WE MUST WORSHIP IN THE RIGHT PLACE (JOHN 4:20-24)

- a) God does not dwell in temples made with hands.
 - i) Acts 17:24
- b) Technically, a church building is not a temple or a sanctuary.
 - i) A sanctuary is a holy place.
- c) When we get saved, every place is holy, and every day is sacred.



- i) The sanctuary is now in us, as believers.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 6:19
 - (2) God lives in us.
- ii) There are those who wouldn't think of defiling the church building, but they defile their bodies, the temple of God.
- d) John 4:20-24
 - i) The woman asked where they should worship.
 - ii) We worship God in spirit and in truth.
- e) We have the wonderful privilege of worshipping any place, any time.
- f) Hebrews 10:19-20
 - i) The "holiest" in this passage refers to the Holy of Holies in the temple or the tabernacle.
 - (1) No one dared go in there unless he was the high priest; and he could only go in once a year.
 - (a) He went in with a basin of blood and with fear and trembling, lest he do something wrong and God strike him dead.
 - (2) It was where the Shekinah glory of God dwelt.
 - (3) That's where the Ark of the Covenant was kept.
 - (4) It was the most holy place in the temple.
 - ii) Now we enter, not with a basin of blood, but with the blood of Jesus.
 - iii) Everything in the Old Testament temple was a picture of Jesus.
 - iv) The temple veil pictured Jesus.
 - (1) The holy place and the Holy of Holies were separated by a veil.
 - (a) When Jesus was crucified, there was an earthquake and the veil was torn from top to bottom.
 - (i) Matthew 27:51
 - (b) People who could never go in there before could now look right into the Holy of Holies.
 - (i) This was done when Jesus shed His blood to make a way into that holy place.
 - (2) Even the colors of the veil pictured the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) White spoke of His sinlessness.
 - (b) Blue spoke of the fact that He's the Son of God from Heaven.
 - (c) Red spoke of the fact that He would shed His blood upon the Earth and that He was man as well as God.
 - (i) If you take the scarlet red and the blue and blend them together, you get purple.
 - (d) Purple spoke of His royalty.
 - (i) When you look at the purple, you can't tell where the blue ends and the red begins.
 - (ii) When we look at the Lord Jesus, we can't tell where His deity ends and His humanity begins, or where His humanity ends and His deity begins.
 - 1. He is the God-Man.
 - (3) Just as Jesus' body was torn on the cross, that veil was torn.
 - v) We have that privilege of going into the holy place that the Old Testament Jews never had,



either at Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim.

- vi) There is a new and a living way in spirit and in truth through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- vii) Worship is any time and any place that we enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus Christ.

- g) This does not mean that we're not to gather at church to worship.
 - i) Hebrews 10:25
 - ii) We sin against God when we forsake the assembly because He commanded us not to forsake it.
 - iii) In Scripture, forsaking the assembly is a mark of the unsaved.
 - (1) Going to church doesn't save us.
 - (2) When people willingly, deliberately, carelessly, and callously neglect the place of the assembly, it was a sign in New Testament days that they had never truly been saved.
 - (3) 1 John 2:19
- h) The place of worship is any time, any place; but there is also something significant about our coming to church.
 - i) It is not primarily that we come to church to worship, but that we bring our worship to church.
 - (1) We have been with the Lord all week long.
 - (2) When we come together, we are already so full of God, and we come to church to celebrate together.
 - ii) When we come together in corporate worship, we are saying two things:
 - (1) God is important to me.
 - (2) My brothers and sisters in Christ are important to me.
 - (a) We exhort one another.
 - (b) Hebrews 3:13
- i) Every day is a holy day, every ground is sacred ground, but we still assemble together as brothers and sisters in Christ, bringing our worship to the Lord.

4) WE MUST WORSHIP WITH THE RIGHT PROCEDURE (JOHN 4:24)

- a) We worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.
 - i) John 4:24
 - (1) He is talking about our human spirit in this passage.
- b) We don't just worship God with our hands, knees, eyes and mouth, though that's involved.
 - i) It has to come from within.
- c) We must serve God with our spirit.
 - i) Romans 1:9
 - (1) Psalm 103:1
- d) If worship seems boring, the problem is in our hearts.
 - i) To worship God in spirit, the Holy Spirit has to be in our spirit.
 - (1) Galatians 4:6
 - ii) If going to church is a bore to you, then there's nothing wrong with you that an old-fashioned revival or salvation won't cure.
- e) When we worship in spirit, then we'll worship in truth.



- i) Psalm 145:18
- ii) This is why we have an exposition of the Word of God.
- iii) Real worship has a theological base.
- iv) Our worship rises no higher than our concept of God.
- f) We worship God in spirit from our hearts and in truth based on God's Word.

5) WE MUST WORSHIP FOR THE RIGHT PURPOSE (JOHN 4:23)

- a) We don't go to church to "get something out of it" if we go for the right reason.
 - i) We go to church to put something into it.
- b) People want to go to church to receive a blessing, but the Bible says that we're to bless the Lord.
 - i) Psalm 103:1
- c) When we forget about ourselves and begin to worship God, then there will be blessings all over us.
 - i) Stop trying to be blessed, and start worshipping God.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) The Samaritan woman had a thirsty soul.
 - i) She met the Savior, and He satisfied her deepest longing.
- b) If you don't know Jesus, then there is a thirst in your heart today.
- c) Right now, in this moment, you can give your heart to Jesus and be saved.
- d) Pray to Him now, and ask Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



Give Him Glory

SERMON REFERENCE: John 4:4-24

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1971

Would you take God's Word and be finding the Gospel of John chapter 4, and in just a moment we're going to look at verse 24. For a month now we're going to be talking about worship. We're going to be preaching messages every Sunday morning on worship. The theme for this month is, "Give Him Glory," and that's what we want to do. And the way to give Him glory is to worship Him in spirit and in truth. John chapter 4, look if you will in verse 24. Here are the words of Jesus. Jesus said, "God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Now let me ask you a question; have you ever been in a boring worship service? Be careful how you answer. Listen, you have never been in a boring worship service. You may have been in a boring church service, but if you have been worshipping God, that is one of the most thrilling, exciting, fulfilling, and meaningful things that could possibly happen to you. To learn to worship God in spirit and in truth will turn the monotonous into the momentous; worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

Now listen to me, folks. What we're talking about today is not incidental, it is the bottom line, it is the ultimate priority, it is the highest good to worship Him. It is your, listen, your supreme duty; it is your maximum privilege. Did you get that? It is your supreme duty; it is your maximum privilege. You're going to cheat yourself if you do not listen to this series on worship. You're going to bless yourself if you will drink it in, imbibe, and practice what our Lord teaches about worship.

They asked Jesus what is the greatest commandment. Now they asked the greatest teacher, I suppose the greatest question, and the greatest question would be, "What is the greatest commandment?" And the Lord Jesus gave the answer in Mark chapter 12 verses 29 and 30, "The first of all commandments is, 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength.' This is the first and great commandment." One Lord, one love. Now if you keep this commandment, you'll be blessed. If you fail to keep it, you will suffer. In the passage that we have before us, John chapter 4, the word worship is used at least ten times, some form of the word to worship. And I believe that it is the definitive passage in all of the New Testament on the subject of worship.

Now let me give you the background for this statement that Jesus made in John chapter 4 and verse 24 that, "God is spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." The Lord Jesus is on a journey, and I want you to notice in verse 4. The Bible says, "And he must needs go through Samaria." Now our Lord is going up to Galilee, and He has been down in the southern part of the land of Israel, down in Judah, and now He has turned northward and He is going to Galilee. Now normally, when a Jew of this day and age would go from the southern part to the northern part of the land, he would not go, I say he would not go through Samaria. He would take a detour for two reasons. Number one, the detour was the easiest way to go down along the banks of the river Jordan where there were not so many sharp and rocky crags and mountains and precipitous places to fall. That was the easiest way to travel. But besides that, they went around Samaria, very frankly, because they did not like the Samaritans. That's to put it mildly. They abhorred the Samaritans, they hated the Samaritans, and the Samaritans returned the favor.



Now who were the Samaritans? These hostile people there. Well, in the year 721 BC, the people of Israel who had rebelled against the Lord were carried away captive; that's in the year 721 BC. Now the captors took the strongest and the best, the most noble, the most educated, the finest of the people away captive, but they left the sick, the weak, the poor, and the illiterate; they left them in the land. They said, "We don't want to bother with you," and so the others are carried away captive.

Well, these people who were left in this land that we call Samaria, they began to intermarry with themselves and they began to reinforce the gene pool of weakness, and besides that some Babylonian stragglers came in, and they began to marry with these Jews who were left behind. And what happened is that you had a mixed race, what some would call a mongrel breed of people, the Samaritans and the Babylonians. And the Babylonians brought their paganism in, and the Jews would have nothing to do with these people. They looked down upon them; they would not even eat out of a plate that had been eaten out of by a Samaritan, no matter how many times you washed it.

Now the Samaritans wanted to go down to Jerusalem to worship, but they were not allowed, they were told to stay out. So they built their own place of worship, their own house of worship on a mountain that was there in Samaria called Mount Gerizim. So you had two places to worship: you had Mount Zion, where the Temple was, and then Mount Gerizim, where the Samaritans worship. Now that's the background.

And the Bible says in John 4:4 that Jesus, "Must needs go through Samaria." That is, He had a divine appointment, because as we're going to see in just a moment there was a woman there who needed redemption, she needed to be saved, she needed the Savior, it was not accidental, it was not incidental, it was fundamentally a purpose of our Lord to go through Samaria to this forsaken place by the Jews and to meet this woman who would have been so despised by the Jews. It was a divine appointment.

When I welcomed you today, I said you're not here by accident. I believe you're here by divine appointment. I believe that God rules over everything. I believe not a blade of grass moves without His permission. And I believe that God has every one of us here by divine appointment because we, like this woman of old, are going to meet the Savior here in this place.

Now, let's continue to read and see what happened here in John 4 verses 5 through 9, "Then He cometh to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there." By the way, I have been to Jacob's well on a number of occasions. That well is still there; it's one of the most authentic places in the Holy Land. "Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus, therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well, and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus saith unto her, 'Give me to drink,' for His disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat," that is, to buy food. "Then saith the woman of Samaria unto Him, 'How is it that Thou, being a Jew, asketh a drink of me,'" you can almost hear a snarl in her voice as she says this, "which am a woman of Samaria?" Now, it's bad enough that she was a Samaritan, but she was a woman of Samaria, and the women of this day were looked down upon and denigrated, and she says, "Why are You talking to me? You're a Jew, I'm a Samaritan; besides that, I'm a woman."

And then in verses 9 through 19 she goes on to explain it as if He didn't know, "For the Jews have no dealing with the Samaritans." Jesus answered and said unto her, 'If thou knewest the gift of God and who it is that saith to thee, 'Give me to drink,' thou would've asked of Him and He would've given thee living water.' The woman saith unto Him, 'Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with and the well is deep.'" And by the



way, the well is very deep; I've been there, I can testify of that. "From whence then hast Thou that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob which gave us the well and drank thereof himself and his children and his cattle?' Jesus answered and said unto her, 'Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.' "The woman saith unto Him, 'Sir,'" "give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.' Now Jesus saith unto her, 'Go call thy husband and come hither.'" At this moment, if she was able to blush, she blushed, because, "The woman answered and said, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said unto her, 'Thou hast well said, "I have no husband," for thou hast had five husbands.'" Today we'd give her an Academy Award, wouldn't we? "Thou hast had five husbands, and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband.'" That is, now she's just living with a man without even the benefit of a marriage ceremony. "In that saidest thou truly." Jesus said, "You're telling the truth when you say 'I have no husband.'" "The woman said unto Him, 'Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.'" And I'm going to stop there for just a moment, but I want you to notice this divine appointment.

Here was a woman, she was bound by sin. Here was a woman who had, really, a thirsty soul; it was God that she was thirsting for. But she had gone from husband to husband, she had gone from affair to affair, and it had all turned to dust in front of her, and she's now just, sort of a faded flower. She's living now with a man without even the benefits of marriage, and she has become the dirty plaything of a, I suppose, a dirtier man. You know what people would call that today? The new morality.

Well, we can tell from John chapter 4 it's not new. And it's certainly not moral. And we have the same thing today in Hollywood, and Hollywood is leading the pack. By the way, people talk about reforming Hollywood? I think it'd probably be easier to run a soda shop in Hell than to reform Hollywood. If it happens, that would be wonderful, but that's not where I'm pinning my hopes, I want to tell you the truth. These actresses with faces like angels and morals like alley cats are becoming the entertainment in America today, and people are having that filth piped right into their living room. Well, here was this woman, she was bound by sin. Don't envy these people who live in this lifestyle. Pity them, pity them.

I thank God for a Christian home, a godly marriage, and friend, that's what you ought to strive for and that's what you ought to build by the grace of God. But she was bound by sin because she'd been blinded by Satan. Satan had lied to her. Satan said, "This is the way you're going to find satisfaction, lady." As Dr. Robert G. Lee, the late, great pastor of this church, used to say, "You can eat the devil's corn if you want to, but he'll choke you on the cob." The devil, as he said, offers high wages but he pays in counterfeit money. The Bible says in Proverbs 20 verse 17, "The bread of deceit is sweet, but afterward a man's mouth shall be filled with gravel."

Satan had blinded this woman and now she's just broken by sorrow, she's been discarded by these men like some kind of a wornout garment. Sin has its thrills, but it doesn't have its joys. Sin thrills, then it kills. It fascinates, then it assassinates. And here she was, bound by sin, blinded by Satan, broken by sorrow, but Jesus, "Must needs go through Samaria." This was a divine appointment, and Jesus begins to talk to this woman about living water. About drinking from the well of salvation; Himself, the fountain of living water.

Now what she did was what many people do when you start to zero in on their spiritual need. She began to argue denominations. She said in John 4:20, "Now wait a minute, you're a Jew, we're Samaritans.



The Jews worship in Jerusalem; the Samaritans worship in Samaria. The Jews worship on Mount Zion; we worship on Mount Gerizim. Which is the right place to worship?" Have you ever noticed how people want to argue denominationalism rather than talk about salvation? "Which is the right place to worship?" She's saying, "We worship here because our fathers worshipped here; our father Jacob worshipped here, and our fathers are telling us this is the right place to worship." A Baptist was talking to a Methodist, trying to get the Methodist to be a Baptist. And the Baptist said to the Methodist, "Why are you a Methodist? Why aren't you a Baptist?" He said, "Well, I'm a Methodist because my father was a Methodist, and his father was a Methodist, so I'm a Methodist." The Baptist said, "That doesn't make sense. What if your father was a fool and your grandfather was a fool, then what would you be?" He said, "Well, I guess I'd be a Baptist." People just want to argue religion.

That's what this woman is doing. She's saying, "Where should we worship?" Look in verse 20, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain, and Ye say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Now, Jesus now begins to talk to her about what I want to talk to you about today, and that is the subject of worship! Oh, what this woman needed was an encounter with the living God, and that encounter is called worship.

Now, this woman only had two alternatives. The only alternatives at least that she knew of. That is, she could worship at Mount Gerizim, the place of worship there that the Samaritans had built, or she thought maybe in Jerusalem. Now these were the two options of that day. Now let me tell you what they were like. The Samaritans worshipped with zeal. As a matter of fact, there's still a few Samaritans alive today, did you know that? I have been to this place, and I've been up on Mount Gerizim, and I have met some Samaritans; there's some real live, living Samaritans today. Just a handful of them, just a few hundreds of them, that are still living today, still worshipping there.

Now let me tell you about the Samaritans. The Samaritans rejected most of the Old Testament. They only kept five books of the Old Testament, what we call the Pentateuch. The rest of it, they said, we don't have anything to do with. So they rejected primarily a good part of the Word of God, but you talk about worshipping with fervor and zeal, they still do that. They still make animal sacrifices today. These Samaritans have a zeal, but not according to knowledge. Now that's the kind of worship they had in Samaria.

Now the Jews, they worshipped in Jerusalem. They believed all of the Bible of that day, the Old Testament. They believed it from Genesis to Malachi, they believed it all, and they worshipped there in the Temple, but their religion was dead. Dead as a wedge. Jesus said in Mark 7 verse 6, "Isaiah prophesied of you. This people honoreth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me." So what you had here on the one hand is uninformed zeal and on the other hand dead orthodoxy. Now that's what you have today, folks, all around if you look around. By and large we have basically the same thing today when people are trying to worship. The Samaritans worshipped in ignorance but they had zeal; the Jews had the truth but they rejected the spirit, and thank God we don't have to choose between enthusiastic heresy or lifeless orthodoxy. And so, this woman had these two options: they had the heat without light, or light without heat, to fry in fanaticism or to freeze in formalism. But neither one of them knew the truth of what it is to worship.

Now with that as a background, I want you to look now at the Scripture. Look in John chapter 4 verse 21 through verse 24, "Jesus saith unto her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour cometh when ye shall neither



in this mountain;” that is, Mount Gerizim where they were, “nor yet at Jerusalem worship the Father. Ye worship, ye know not what;” that is, you’ve got ignorant worship. “We know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.” They had the truth. But now notice verse 23, “But the hour cometh and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit;” that’s what the Samaritans specialized in, “and in truth;” that’s what the Jews specialized in, “for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

Now, with that in mind, I want to talk to you about worship today. What is worship in spirit and in truth? Very quickly I hope you’ll get these facts down. Fact number one; **we must worship the right person for it to be true worship.** Look if you will in verse 23. The Bible says, “For the Father seeketh such to worship Him.” You must worship the right person, and who is the right person? The Father! Idolatry is to worship the wrong god. First Corinthians chapter 8 verse 6 says, “There is but one God, the Father.” “There is but one God.” Now we have today people who don’t want to call God; Father. They want to call God; mother. As a matter of fact, some foolish people have even rewritten the Bible to call God the; father/mother/god and all of this theological garbage, and that’s what it is, folks, I hate to tell you this, but sheer garbage. God is Father. “There is one God, the Father.” That’s what the Word of God says. Now, if that offends you, you come apologize to me after the service and I’ll forgive you. Friend, that’s just what the Bible says. God is Father. Father is not what God is like; Father is what God is! That is the very nature of God. That does not demean or demote anybody. It just simply means that God is Father.

Do you know what we’re seeing today? A subtle move from Father God to Mother Earth. Have you noticed that? From Father, and beyond that, some to Uncle Sam. From Father God to Mother Earth to Uncle Sam. But friend, we must worship the right person. “The Father seeketh such to worship Him.”

Did you know that Jesus called God Father more than seventy times in the Gospels? It was His favorite term for the Almighty. Now, that blesses me, that blesses me, because I’ve been thinking about the nature of God. You think about His omnipotence, His mighty power, He can do anything. You think about His omniscience, He knows everything. You think about His omnipresence, He’s everywhere. Somebody said that, “God is a circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.” That’s a mindboggling thought. That’s His omnipresence. Those are great big doublejointed words. And many of us can’t understand that, many of us can’t relate to that, but Father we can relate to, isn’t that right? Father. “The Father seeketh such to worship Him.”

When I was a little guy, a little kid, my daddy sold automobiles; he sold Buick automobiles for East Coast Motors down in West Palm Beach, Florida. And I can see it right now in my mind’s eye as I’m thinking about it; see my dad as he would get his black leather folder that he would have and with his prospects and so forth in it, put his papers in there. I never knew what those papers were all about, but I was fascinated by that thing. And it looked almost like a ladies’ purse; it folded over, was black leather and had a snap on it. He had his papers in there. He’d put that in his hand, and he’d walk out of the house in the morning, kiss my mama goodbye. I had no earthly idea where he went, what he did, what he said, I didn’t know any of that. And when he would come back home, I would welcome him home. Folks, I didn’t have to know what he did or how he did it to know him and love him, did you know that? Or experience his love for me. He was my daddy.

I don’t understand today where God goes when He goes to work, how He flings out the stars and scoops out the oceans and heaps up the mountains and runs this mighty universe. There are a lot of



things about God I don't know and that doesn't bother me. You don't know, either. You don't know, "Who hath known the mind of the Lord? Who hath known His counselor?" Romans 11:34. You don't have to know for Him to be your Father, is that not true? You don't have to know all that your Father does for Him to be your Father. Little children can look to Him and say, "Father," and the Bible teaches in Galatians 4:6, that when we get saved, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, "Abba, Father." So if you worship, number one, you must worship the right person. "The Father seeketh such to worship Him."

Number two, not only must you worship the right person, but **you must worship in the right place**. Now where is the place? Well, is the place Jerusalem? Not necessarily. Is the place Mount Gerizim? Not necessarily. It could be, but what Jesus is now teaching is that God does not dwell in temples made with hands. That's what the apostle Paul said in Acts chapter 17 verse 24, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing He is the Lord of Heaven and Earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands." Now it's very important that you understand this. Folks, you don't have to be inside this building to worship God; did you hear that? As a matter of fact, we make a big mistake when we when we call a church a temple or when we call a church a sanctuary. Now I guess, I say it's a big mistake, I guess if we accept it in the common parlance of today it may not be an egregious mistake, but technically this is not a temple, and technically this is not a sanctuary. A sanctuary is a holy place. Now you say, "Isn't this place holy?" Well, yes, but you're still missing what I'm saying. When you get saved, every place is holy, every day is sacred.

When I was a little boy, I used to go to a very wonderful church, the church I got saved in, baptized in, married in, ordained in, the church building, that is. And as you walked in the door of that very small auditorium, there was a sign over the door, and it said this, "The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the Earth keep silence before Him." Boy, when I walked in there, I mean, I've come in to the holy place! Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not putting down that place, I am grateful for that place. That's where I got saved! And I'm not putting down this place. It has been given over and dedicated to the worship of God and the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It belongs to Jesus! Don't get me wrong, now. Don't think I'm putting this place down. But folks you want to know where the sanctuary now is? Right here. Right here. That's what Paul said in First Corinthians chapter 6 verse 19, "What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which ye have of God?" God lives in me, God lives in you.

You know there're people who wouldn't think of defiling this place, the church, who would defile this place, the body! I mean, some of you would not smoke in here, but as soon as you get out, you light up. You say, "Well I wouldn't smoke in there, that's the church." Well friend, you're the sanctuary. Some of you would not use language in here that you would use out there. Why is that? If you had to defile either one, and I pray God you'll not defile either one, be far better to defile this than to defile this, wouldn't it? See you're the temple of God.

And so this woman said, "Where are we going to worship? Are we going to worship over here in Mount Gerizim, or we going to worship down there in Jerusalem?" Jesus says, "Here's where you worship, right here." John 4:24 says, "God is spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." And so where do we worship? Any place, any time. What a privilege we have.

I want you to put your bookmark there in John chapter 4, and turn if you will to Hebrews chapter 10 with me for just a moment. In Hebrews chapter 10, let me show you something wonderful about the privilege that you and I have to worship our Lord at any time, any place. In Hebrews chapter 10, look with me in verse 19 and 20 if you will, please. And the Bible says, "Having therefore brethren, boldness, to enter



into the holiest by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way which He hath consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, His flesh.” “Pastor, what does that mean?” Well when he says, “The holiest,” he’s talking about the Holy of Holies in the temple or in the tabernacle. Nobody would dare go in there unless they were the high priest. And the high priest could only go in once a year. And when he went in, he went in with a basin of blood and fear and trembling lest he do something wrong and God strike him dead. That’s where the Shekinah glory of God dwelt, that’s where the Ark of the Covenant was, and that was the most holy place in the temple, and it’s called, “The holiest.”

But now he talks to us, brothers and sisters in Christ, in Hebrews chapter 10 verses 19 and 20, “Having therefore brethren boldness to enter into the holiest,” how do we enter? Not with a basin of blood, but with the blood of Jesus, “by a new and a living way which He hath consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, His flesh.” Everything in that Old Testament temple was just a picture of our Lord. And the veil pictured our Lord. The holy place and the holiest of holies, or the holy of holies, there was a holy place and the holiest place, or the holy of holies, was separated by a veil. That veil was about six inches thick in the temple, and the veil had four colors. It was white and it was blue, and it was scarlet and it was royal purple; must’ve been a beautiful thing. And you remember the Bible says that when Jesus was crucified, you read about it there in Matthew chapter 27 verse 51, there was an earthquake, and that veil was torn from the top to the bottom, you remember that? It was, it was torn asunder. So, people who could never go in there before, could now look right in to the holy of holies. But this was done when Jesus shed His blood, to make a way into that holy place.

Now listen to this very carefully. That veil pictured the Lord Jesus Christ. Even the colors pictured the Lord Jesus Christ. White spoke of His sinlessness. The blue spoke of the fact that He’s the Son of God from Heaven. The red spoke of the fact that He would shed His blood upon this Earth, and that He was a man as well as God. But if you take, if you take the scarlet red and the blue and blend them together, you get purple, which shows His royalty. When you look at the purple, you can’t tell where the blue ends and the red begins. And when you look at the Lord Jesus, you can’t tell where His deity ends and His humanity begins or His humanity begins and His deity ends. He’s the GodMan. That veil was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a picture of His body. And just as His body was torn on that cross, that veil was torn and made a way into the holy of holies.

Now folks, listen. You and I have that privilege to go into the holy place that the Old Testament Jews never had, not at Jerusalem, not at Mount Gerizim. There is a new and a living way in spirit and in truth through the Lord Jesus Christ. We go right into the holy of holies. Now I’m going to let you in on a secret. I’ve already been in there this morning, and I hope that you have. I hope that you know the joy, the privilege of going into that holy place.

Now, worship is anytime, any place that you will enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus Christ. Now, you must worship the right person, you must worship in the right place. Every day is a holy day; every place is a sacred place. You say, “Well then, Pastor, does that mean that we’re not to come here anymore to worship?” Oh, no, if you continue to read in Hebrews chapter 10:25 it says we’re, “Not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.” Don’t ever forsake this. If you do that, you’ll sin against God, for God has commanded you not to forsake the assembling. As a matter of fact, if you forsake the assembly, if you don’t come to the assembly, in the Bible it is a mark that you’re not saved, that you never really believed, that you’ve gone back to perdition. Now, coming to church doesn’t save you. Billy Sunday used



to say, "Going to church won't make you a Christian any more than going into a garage will make you an automobile." I agree with that. Coming to church doesn't save you. But when people willingly, definitely, deliberately, carelessly, callously neglect the house, the place of the assembly, in the New Testament days, it was a sign that they'd never, ever truly been saved. Read First John 2 verse 19, "They went out from us but they were not of us."

So, where's the place of worship? Any time, any place, but there is something significant also about our coming together to worship. Now listen very carefully. The significance of coming here is not primarily that we come to worship, but that we bring our worship to church. We bring our worship. In other words, we have been with the Lord all week long. And so when we come together, all of us full of God, we don't come here to get filled up; we're already full of God. We come here to celebrate together.

Why do we come together? Why do we come to corporate worship? Do you know what you're saying when you're here today? And I'm so glad you are. You're saying two things. Number one, you're saying, "God is important to me," and you're saying, "You people are important to me." My brothers and sisters in Christ are important to me. That's why we, "Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together," Hebrews 10:25, but we exhort one another. It fires me up to meet this man. I hope it fires him up to meet me. You blessed me today, choir, and by the way you really did, you blessed me today and musicians and others. As we worship, as I look out there and look at your face and those of you who are smiling and nodding and saying, "Amen", that is a blessing to me. The Bible says in Hebrews 3:13, "We exhort one another." Now you must worship the right person. You worship in the right place; every day is a holy day, every ground is sacred ground. But we still assemble together as brothers and sisters in Christ, bringing our worship to our Lord.

Now here's the next thing I want you to see; **we worship with the right procedure**. We worship our Lord in spirit and in truth. Now what does it mean to worship in spirit? He's talking about the human spirit here; He's talking about your spirit. You don't just worship God with your hands and your knees and your eyes and your mouth. That's involved. But it's got to come from within. You've got to serve God with your spirit. That's what the apostle Paul said in Romans 1 verse 9, "God is my witness whom I serve with my spirit." That's the reason the Psalmist said in Psalm 103 verse 1, "Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name."

Now, if you don't enjoy a worship service like this, and very frankly I know that some of you are here because somebody asked you to come. Some of you are passing notes, some of you are reading, listen, I couldn't be around this long without knowing that. I know what you're doing, some of you are planning your menu, you're out to lunch already. I know that. I know that! Hey, I wasn't born yesterday, but I'm going to tell your problem, I'm going to tell your problem. It's not primarily with the preaching. You remember I said, "If you've ever been in a boring worship service?" One woman said, "I've never seen my pastor's eyes. When he prays he closes his and when he preaches he closes mine." Hey listen, let me tell you something, folks, the problem is in your heart if worship seems boring to you. If a service like this seems boring to you, you just don't have the right stuff.

You see, you have to worship God in spirit! And to worship God in spirit, the Holy Spirit has to be in your spirit! Because it's the Holy Spirit! Galatians 4:6, "God has sent forth His spirit into our hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father.'" And if you don't enjoy coming to church, if it's tedious and tasteless to you and a bore to you and



a drag to you, there's nothing wrong with you that an oldfashioned revival or a good dose of salvation wouldn't cure. That's right. Worship in spirit! And then you'll worship in truth.

Now you don't choose the Samaritan way, you don't choose the Jerusalem way, you choose the Jesus way, which is worship in spirit and in truth. Psalm 145 verse 18, "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, all that worship Him in truth." That's why we always here at Bellevue have an exposition of the Word of God. Some'll say, "Oh, I just want to worship; I just want to sing and pray and praise and fellowship, tada, tada, tada." And, you don't worship in truth. Real worship has a theological base. And your worship rises no higher than your concept of God. You worship in spirit, but you must worship in truth. Listen, we worship God in spirit from our hearts and in truth based on the Word of God! The right person, listen to me folks, you worship in the right place anywhere, anytime because you're a temple of God. Then you worship in the right procedure, in spirit and in truth.

And here's the final thing, and listen very carefully; **you worship for the right purpose.** And what is the right purpose? John 4:23, "For the Father seeketh such to worship Him." I'm sick and tired of people saying, "Well I didn't get anything out of it." Well you didn't come to get anything out of it, if you came for the right reason. You came to put something into it. "I want to get a blessing." You read the Bible and find out how many times the Bible says we're to bless the Lord. "Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name!" Psalm 103 verse 1.

Here's a secret, folks, when you forget about yourself and you begin to worship Him, there'll be blessings all over you. When you stop trying to be blessed and start worshipping God. There's a chorus that we sing, "Forget about yourself and worship Him!" That's the purpose of it. And this poor woman, who had a thirsty soul, finally found what she was thirsty for.

"Friends all around me are trying to find what the hearts yearns for, by sin undermined. I have the secret; I know where 'tis found, true pleasures only in Jesus abound."

Let's bow our heads in prayer. Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. Friend, there was a thirsty woman so long ago, and she met the Savior and He satisfied her deepest longing. I know right now that there's a thirst in your heart if you don't know Jesus. Now put away your foolish thoughts right now. Don't let the devil distract you right now. God brought you here today to be saved; and if you're not saved, right now, this moment, you can give your heart to Jesus and be saved. I want you to pray this prayer, "Dear God," just pray it right now, "dear God, I know that You love me. I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me, and You promised to save me if I would only trust You. I do trust You, Jesus." Would you pray that prayer? "I do trust You, Jesus. Right now, this moment, come into my heart; forgive my sin, save me, Lord Jesus." Pray that from the depth of your being, "Save me, Lord Jesus." Say it and mean it, "Save me, Lord Jesus." Now thank Him for doing it. Pray this way, "Lord, I don't look for a sign; I don't ask for a feeling, I just stand on Your Word. Thank You for saving me, and help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



2941 Kate Bond Road | Memphis TN 38183 | (901) 382-7900