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WITH ADRIAN ROGERS

SERMON OUTLINE

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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.
      ii) 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.
      iii) 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.

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(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

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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

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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.

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(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.

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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

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