**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Life’s Greatest Privilege |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 4:23-24 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2431 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Many people when they get saved, thank God that they are no longer going to Hell, that their sin is forgiven, and that they are Heaven-bound.
      1. But there is much more, and so many never find it.
      2. They never find the door of worship that will change their lives from the monotonous to the momentous.
   2. Worship is life’s greatest privilege, life’s highest good, and life’s greatest duty.
      1. It is the bottom line.
   3. We were saved and created to worship God.
      1. Anything that doesn’t do what it was made to do is a failure.
   4. The word “worship” is used in some form at least ten times in John 4.
   5. In John 4, the Lord Jesus is on a journey, and He chooses to go through Samaria.
      1. This was a hostile territory.
         1. The Samaritans didn’t like the Jews, and the Jews did not like the Samaritans.
      2. Jesus had a divine appointment.
         1. There at the well at noontime, He met a woman who had come to draw water.
            1. She did not have a good character.
         2. She was bound by sin, blinded by Satan, and broken by sorrow.
         3. She was disillusioned and thirsty.
      3. Jesus, as the master teacher, used whatever was at hand to teach a great lesson.
         1. This time, it was water.
      4. Jesus talked to her about the water of life; and if she drank from it, then she would never thirst again.
         1. Of course, He was talking about Himself.
   6. John 4:16-20
      1. For this woman, religion was a basis for argument, not a place of blessing.
         1. She had tried religion, but it’s obvious that religion had not done her any good.
         2. Religion has not done anyone any good.
            1. Christianity is not a religion; it is a vital relationship with God through Christ.
            2. It will be a great day when we stop enduring religion and start enjoying salvation.
   7. The woman in Samaria wanted to have an argument that dealt with the difference between Samaria and Jerusalem.
      1. The Samaritans were very superstitious and had rejected all of the Old Testament except for the first five books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy).
      2. The Samaritans were ignorant of the Scriptures, but they worshipped with fiery zeal.
      3. The Jews were not ignorant of the Scriptures.
         1. They had the Word of God, but they had no zeal.
      4. John 4:22
         1. The Samaritans had ignorant worship.
         2. The Jews had dead orthodoxy.
            1. Mark 7:6
   8. This woman had seen only two things religiously:
      1. Religious fanaticism (zeal and ignorance)
      2. Dead orthodoxy
         1. These are the only choices many people have today.
            1. They either have heat with no light or light with no heat.
   9. This argument missed the point of true worship, which is worshipping God in spirit and in truth.
2. the “what” of worship (john 4:23)
   1. John 4:23
      1. This passage does not say “all worshippers” but “true worshippers.”
   2. Worship is all that we are responding to all that He is in gratitude and praise.
      1. It is more than a church service, singing and prayer.
      2. It is all that we are responding to all that He is.
      3. It includes all of life.
3. the “who” of worship (john 4:23)
   1. We worship the Father.
      1. John 4:23
         1. Not “a” father but “the” Father.
   2. Father is not what God is like; it’s who God is.
   3. “Father” was Jesus’ favorite term for the Almighty.
      1. Jesus called Him “Father” more than seventy times in the Bible.
   4. Humanity is incurably religious.
      1. People everywhere worship.
         1. If you don’t worship the Father, it’s not that you will not worship.
            1. You will simply worship someone or something else.
      2. When a person ceases to believe in the true God, it’s not that he believes in nothing; it’s that he will believe in anything.
      3. Many people worship idols.
         1. We see this in many parts of the world.
         2. Even in American religion, people will set up images in their churches and bow before them.
            1. But there is no image that substitutes for Almighty God.
   5. We are to worship the Father in spirit and in truth.
4. the “why” of worship (John 4:23)
   1. God seeks worshippers for what worship does for us.
      1. We become like what we worship.
         1. This is one reason why idolatry is so hideous.
            1. An idol is a magnified sinner.
            2. In ancient times and even today, man takes his worst vices and worships them.

If you make a god out of sex, then you worship your god by illicit sex.

If you make a god out of alcohol, then you worship your god through alcohol.

* + - * 1. Pagan cultures went deeper and deeper into sin and degradation because they made gods out of their vices and then magnified those gods through their sin.
      1. Anything we love more, fear more, serve more or honor more than Jehovah God is an idol.
         1. We have idols of sports.
         2. We have idols of money and pleasure.
    1. The more we worship God, the more like Him we become.
       1. 2 Corinthians 3:18
       2. We become like whom we spend time with.
  1. God also wants us to worship for what worship does for Him.
     1. Our worship gives God pleasure.
     2. John 4:23
     3. God wants us to think of Him as Father.
        1. We may not understand all about the omniscience of God, the omnipresence of God and the omnipotence of God, but we can know Him as Father.
        2. A father wants love.
           1. There may be those who can sing better, teach better, preach better or who have more knowledge, but there is no one who can love God better than you can.

That, above all things, is what pleases God.

* + 1. Matthew 22:37
  1. The word “worship” is a combination of words that mean “worthship.”
     1. We show God what He is worth to us by how we worship Him.

1. the “way” of worship (John 4:23-24)
   1. Not all worship is accepted.
      1. The worship of the Samaritans with all of their zeal was not accepted.
      2. The worship of the Jews and their dead orthodoxy was not accepted.
   2. John 4:23-24
      1. The way of worship is both zeal and the truth.
      2. The Lord is not talking about the Holy Spirit in this passage, but the human spirit.
         1. We can’t worship apart from the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit works in our human spirit.
         2. The innermost part of our nature is spirit.
            1. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
   3. We worship in spirit.
      1. If our spirit is dead or warped, then we can’t worship.
      2. Worship must come from our innermost being; it has to come from our spirit.
      3. In order to worship in spirit, a person must be saved.
   4. We worship in truth.
      1. It’s not enough to sing praise songs, to pray, or to cry.
      2. There must be an intelligent worship.
      3. Psalm 145:18
      4. Our worship will never rise higher than our knowledge of God.
         1. That’s why we must continually expound the Word of God.
   5. There is the subjective worship in spirit and the objective worship in truth, and both go together.
      1. Colossians 3:16
      2. If we worship only in spirit, we’ll blow up.
      3. If we worship only in truth, we’ll dry up.
      4. If we worship in spirit and truth, we’ll grow up.
         1. We’ll be what we ought to be.
         2. There must be the Holy Spirit and the human spirit combined with the truth of God’s Word.
   6. Mark 12:30
      1. All of our heart – that’s passionate worship.
      2. All of our soul – that’s selfless worship.
      3. All of our mind – that’s intelligent worship.
      4. All of our strength – that’s practical worship.
         1. Whatever we do has to include the totality of the human being.
   7. Many of us are so self-centered.
      1. Some people will say that they went to church but didn’t get anything out of it.
         1. It’s not about us.
         2. The question is, did God get anything out of it?
            1. Did we praise Him?
            2. Did we give Him glory?
2. CONCLUSION
   1. In John 4, the woman from Samaria got saved.
   2. In John 3, Nicodemus, a religious leader and a ruler of the Jews, got saved.
   3. There is no one so good that they need not be saved and no one so bad that they cannot be saved.
   4. Nicodemus was thirsty, and the Samaritan woman was thirsty.
      1. If you’re thirsty, the Lord Jesus will save you today and will keep you saved.
   5. The Lord Jesus is the Master, and only in His hands can we be what we were created to be.
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. 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.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16