

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Life's Greatest Privilege

SERMON REFERENCE: John 4:23-24

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2431

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) 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.
 - i) But there is much more, and so many never find it.
 - ii) They never find the door of worship that will change their lives from the monotonous to the momentous.
- b) Worship is life's greatest privilege, life's highest good, and life's greatest duty.
 - i) It is the bottom line.
- c) We were saved and created to worship God.
 - i) Anything that doesn't do what it was made to do is a failure.
- d) The word "worship" is used in some form at least ten times in John 4.
- e) In John 4, the Lord Jesus is on a journey, and He chooses to go through Samaria.
 - i) This was a hostile territory.
 - (1) The Samaritans didn't like the Jews, and the Jews did not like the Samaritans.
 - ii) Jesus had a divine appointment.
 - (1) There at the well at noontime, He met a woman who had come to draw water.
 - (a) 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.
 - iii) Jesus, as the master teacher, used whatever was at hand to teach a great lesson.
 - (1) This time, it was water.
 - iv) 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.
- f) John 4:16-20
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Christianity is not a religion; it is a vital relationship with God through Christ.
 - (b) It will be a great day when we stop enduring religion and start enjoying salvation.
- g) The woman in Samaria wanted to have an argument that dealt with the difference between Samaria and Jerusalem.
 - i) 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).
 - ii) The Samaritans were ignorant of the Scriptures, but they worshipped with fiery zeal.

- iii) The Jews were not ignorant of the Scriptures.
 - (1) They had the Word of God, but they had no zeal.
 - iv) John 4:22
 - (1) The Samaritans had ignorant worship.
 - (2) The Jews had dead orthodoxy.
 - (a) Mark 7:6
 - h) This woman had seen only two things religiously:
 - i) Religious fanaticism (zeal and ignorance)
 - ii) Dead orthodoxy
 - (1) These are the only choices many people have today.
 - (a) They either have heat with no light or light with no heat.
 - i) 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)
- a) John 4:23
 - i) This passage does not say “all worshippers” but “true worshippers.”
 - b) Worship is all that we are responding to all that He is in gratitude and praise.
 - i) It is more than a church service, singing and prayer.
 - ii) It is all that we are responding to all that He is.
 - iii) It includes all of life.
- 3) THE “WHO” OF WORSHIP (JOHN 4:23)
- a) We worship the Father.
 - i) John 4:23
 - (1) Not “a” father but “the” Father.
 - b) Father is not what God is like; it’s who God is.
 - c) “Father” was Jesus’ favorite term for the Almighty.
 - i) Jesus called Him “Father” more than seventy times in the Bible.
 - d) Humanity is incurably religious.
 - i) People everywhere worship.
 - (1) If you don’t worship the Father, it’s not that you will not worship.
 - (a) You will simply worship someone or something else.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) But there is no image that substitutes for Almighty God.
 - e) We are to worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

4) THE “WHY” OF WORSHIP (JOHN 4:23)

 - a) God seeks worshippers for what worship does for us.

- i) We become like what we worship.
 - (1) This is one reason why idolatry is so hideous.
 - (a) An idol is a magnified sinner.
 - (b) In ancient times and even today, man takes his worst vices and worships them.
 - (i) If you make a god out of sex, then you worship your god by illicit sex.
 - (ii) If you make a god out of alcohol, then you worship your god through alcohol.
 - (c) 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.
 - (2) Anything we love more, fear more, serve more or honor more than Jehovah God is an idol.
 - (a) We have idols of sports.
 - (b) We have idols of money and pleasure.
 - ii) 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.
- b) God also wants us to worship for what worship does for Him.
 - i) Our worship gives God pleasure.
 - ii) John 4:23
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) 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.
 - (i) That, above all things, is what pleases God.
 - iv) Matthew 22:37
- c) The word “worship” is a combination of words that mean “worthship.”
 - i) We show God what He is worth to us by how we worship Him.
- 5) THE “WAY” OF WORSHIP (JOHN 4:23-24)
- a) Not all worship is accepted.
 - i) The worship of the Samaritans with all of their zeal was not accepted.
 - ii) The worship of the Jews and their dead orthodoxy was not accepted.
 - b) John 4:23-24
 - i) The way of worship is both zeal and the truth.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - c) We worship in spirit.
 - i) If our spirit is dead or warped, then we can't worship.
 - ii) Worship must come from our innermost being; it has to come from our spirit.
 - iii) In order to worship in spirit, a person must be saved.
 - d) We worship in truth.
 - i) It's not enough to sing praise songs, to pray, or to cry.
 - ii) There must be an intelligent worship.
 - iii) Psalm 145:18
 - iv) Our worship will never rise higher than our knowledge of God.
 - (1) That's why we must continually expound the Word of God.
 - e) There is the subjective worship in spirit and the objective worship in truth, and both go together.
 - i) Colossians 3:16
 - ii) If we worship only in spirit, we'll blow up.
 - iii) If we worship only in truth, we'll dry up.
 - iv) 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.
 - f) Mark 12:30
 - i) All of our heart – that's passionate worship.
 - ii) All of our soul – that's selfless worship.
 - iii) All of our mind – that's intelligent worship.
 - iv) All of our strength – that's practical worship.
 - (1) Whatever we do has to include the totality of the human being.
 - g) Many of us are so self-centered.
 - i) 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?
 - (a) Did we praise Him?
 - (b) Did we give Him glory?
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) In John 4, the woman from Samaria got saved.
 - b) In John 3, Nicodemus, a religious leader and a ruler of the Jews, got saved.
 - c) There is no one so good that they need not be saved and no one so bad that they cannot be saved.
 - d) Nicodemus was thirsty, and the Samaritan woman was thirsty.

- i) If you're thirsty, the Lord Jesus will save you today and will keep you saved.
- e) The Lord Jesus is the Master, and only in His hands can we be what we were created to be.
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) 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