



WEEK 5

Pillar #2 – Worship

Turning towards the earthly ministry of Jesus, this week we look at what it means to be worshippers, or rather to begin to understand worship. To do this we'll take a look at a familiar story, namely Jesus and the Samaritan woman. This is the story of how one woman got transformed – brought from shame to life, given a renewal, given a New Hope – through a life changing conversation with Jesus. But in the center of that discussion, in the text we get to look at below, there was an interesting exchange about worship. Just what is worship and what should it look like in our lives?

THE SCRIPTURE

JOHN 4:19-26

¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain⁹, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.¹⁰ ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit¹¹ and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ 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."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

⁹**this mountain** – Mount Gerizim. In the Old Testament, this was the site for pronouncing blessings upon those who kept the covenant (Deuteronomy 11:29; 27:12). The Samaritans, however, believed that Mount Gerizim was the intended location for the altar, according to their version of Deuteronomy 27:4, and so this is where they built their temple. When the woman mentioned that her "fathers" "worshiped" on Mount Gerizim, she may have been referring to figures like Abraham (Genesis 12:7) and Jacob (Genesis 33:18-20), who built altars in that region.

¹⁰**salvation is from the Jews** – This is indeed a true statement from Jesus for two specific reasons. First, the Old Testament, which teaches about how to be saved, comes from the Jewish people. Second, the Messiah (Jesus) was born a Jew, not a Samaritan or a Gentile.

¹¹**spirit** – or Spirit, as in the Holy Spirit.

**WE WORSHIP THE LORD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH, CORPORATELY IN THE
UNITY OF THE SPIRIT AND INDIVIDUALLY IN A MANNER THAT IS
PLEASING TO THE LORD.**

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 5

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. How would you explain the meaning of “worship” to an eight-year-old?
2. What are your thoughts on the statement: “Everyone worships something”? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Take some time to get a sense of the whole story of the Samaritan woman in John 4:1-45? What are some details that stuck out for you in the way that Jesus interacted with the woman?
4. What has just happened prior to verse 19 that has prompted the woman to declare that Jesus is “a prophet”? Have you ever experienced a worship setting in which it felt as though the message, song, etc. was specifically directed to you?
5. What is the problem that the woman surfaces to Jesus in verse 20? How might we hear that question phrased today in our context?
6. Consider Isaiah 57:15, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, and Ephesians 2:19-22. What does Jesus mean when he says to woman in John 4:21, “the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father”? How does the next verse help us to understand Jesus’ words even better? Where, according to Jesus is the true location of worship?

7. Jesus tells the woman that true worship is not about where you are, but about who you are inside. He says it must be done in “spirit and truth.” What does this mean?
8. What would it look like to “worship” God without the right spirit? What would it look like to worship without truth?
9. How does Jesus lead the woman to the reality of who he is? What happens immediately after verse 26?
10. Have you ever gotten hung up on the “where” or “when” of worship at the expense of the “Whom” and “how” of worship?
11. Read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25. How will unbelievers be affected if God is truly worshipped while they are in attendance? How sensitive should true worshippers be toward unbelievers in a worship service? How sensitive should we be toward God?