

What Is True Worship? (John 4:19-24)

1. Worship Is Not Place-Focused, but Person-Focused

¹⁹ *The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.*

²⁰ *Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you [Jews] say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."*

²¹ *Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.*

- "The fathers of us" – tradition over truth
- "In this mountain" – place over purpose
 - Not a location (Mecca, the Holy Land, etc.)
 - Not a building ("church")
- "In Jerusalem...the place were to worship must"
 - Argument of externals over eternal
- "neither in this mountain" – not here
- "nor in Jerusalem" – not in Jerusalem
- "they shall worship the Father" – transitions from place-focused worship to person-focused worship.

2. Worship Is Not Ignorant Routine, but Informed Practice

²² *You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.*

- "you are worshipping what you do not know"
- "we worship what we know" – full revelation
- Information, not ignorance
- It matters what you know!
- "for salvation is from the Jews"
 - God's revelation
 - God's plan
 - God's provision

3. Worship Requires a Focus on One Person

- "the hour is coming and now is" – a change
- "that the true[ful] worshippers"
 - [lit. the truthful {ones} that worship]
- "shall worship the Father" – Person-focused
 - Special relationship – Father
 - Not just "worship" but worship of the only true God and Him alone.
 - Just as now "people of faith" – it isn't any faith, but faith in the one true God.
 - Not pastor, singer, or celebrity focus

4. Worship Requires Two Parts

²³ *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.*

²⁴ *God [is] Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

- "true worshippers" – right way, wrong way – implies false worship also, and even majority
- "in" – by means of
- "the Father is seeking such" – indicates that that God is not interested in worship "missing" either part
- toious – in this manner – not any manner
- God is non-physical (a spirit)
- We must worship Him in spirit
 - Not "**the** spirit" as in Holy Spirit
 - Requires salvation (unsaved are spiritually dead)
 - Requires sincerity (as opposed to external or ritual)
 - Immaterial, not physical
 - Spiritually, not fleshly (carnal)
 - Internally, not externally
- We must worship Him in truth
 - Guided by God's revealed truth.
 - Not determined by us or others.
 - Hence the absolute necessity of knowing the Word.

5. Worship Is Required and Prescribed

- MUST – dei – required elements, not optional
- Contrasted to dei regarding the place in the first point