“Worship The Father”

#### Did you know that the LORD created you for worship? You are an imperfect creature of Perfect Creator. You need Him as much as you need breath every minute of the day. And you breathe because He placed you in an atmosphere filled with oxygen. And each moment of the day, your lungs fill with God-created and God-sustained air. You have no breath without Him.

The words of the 17th century French scientist, philosopher, and mathematician are these. “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, made known through Jesus.” [Blaise Pascal].

#### So, since you are wholly dependent upon God, you are privileged each moment to express thanks to the One Who sustains you. Therefore you are here to worship Him.

#### Worship. There are so many definitions of this term. Someone has defined it this way; “the willingness to submit to God, Someone far greater than anyone anywhere; then, humbling myself before Him; then, being set me free to choose Him, and all the while knowing that *His* heart is filled with joy over me.” [Adapted from “My Five Wonders of Worship” by Lori Freeland found on [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)].

I’m becoming more and more convinced that the more I know and understand about God, the more I worship.

1. W. Tozer puts it like this. “Worship is to feel in your

heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery, that Majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call Our Father Who Art in Heaven.”

When you worship, you show what He is worth. One writer says it this way: “worthship; showing God what you truly believe He is worth to you.”

Someone else defines it this way: “to show reverence and adoration while I submit to His will.” And one more word “Don’t worship unless you’re willing to submit.”

The Shorter Westminster Catechism begins *something* like this. “The chief end [goal] of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.” [Pastor John Piper’s revision of the original].

The simplest meaning for this term “worship” is “to bow down” or “to prostrate [lay down] before someone.” Back in Genesis 24:26 we find the attitude of worship in an unnamed servant of the Patriarch Abraham. *“And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the Lord.”*

In Genesis 24:48 we find him saying this to his master Abraham *“And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord God…”*

Today, my goal is to get you to bow down your head and worship your Heavenly Father. So, I’ve titled the sermon “Worship the Father.” Shall we pray?

I am so glad that God has revealed Himself. Look at anything anywhere in creation. You’ll see that His fingerprint, so-to-speak, is on everything.

Aren’t you glad that God has revealed Himself? Aren’t you glad that you can see Him in water and flowers and rain and snow and temperature change? Aren’t you glad that He has shown you what He’s truly like? Aren’t you glad that you have His word to tell you what He’s like? None of our human ideas of God can in any way compare with what the LORD truly is. Your Bible is your description of Him.

All of our human ideas of God can be set aside if we just consider the facts. And those facts can’t be changed. He has freely given them to us in the Scripture.

So, please open your Bible with me to Jesus’ words on worship; John chapter four. This is just one of many occasions in which Jesus tells us what God is like. John 4 is the record of the LORD’s conversation with a woman of Samaria. And in their conversation, we find out what God is like.

Here’s the setting; John 4, verse (3) *“He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. (4) And he must needs go through Samaria. (5) Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. (6) Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.*

*(7) There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (8) (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) (9) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”*

That’s the setting for what Jesus will say to us about what worship is and how we can truly worship the LORD.

This 4th chapter of John is amazing for a number of reasons. For example, here we see Jesus teaching a Samaritan woman. Samaritans were rejected. They were looked down upon by the average Jew. And, to be very frank about it, Samaritans were half Jew and half Assyrian.

So, first, we see Jesus speaking to a woman of a rejected race.

Second, we see Him teaching a woman who had had five failed marriages. And beyond that, on that very day, she was living in sin. She was living with someone who wasn’t her husband.

But the most amazing aspect of John four is that Jesus teaches a sinful woman from a rejected race, who is living in sin, just what it means to worship God.

So, if He has already taken the time to teach an immoral woman on the subject of worship, He’s certainly willing to teach you and me, right?

Often we put Jesus in a box and only expect Him to act a certain way. As a matter of fact, even the LORD’s own disciples had put Him in a box. They were surprised that Jesus spoke with this woman of Samaria. Notice what we read in John 4:27 *“And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?”* In their thoughts they couldn’t imagine Jesus taking time for this woman. But they didn’t say anything.

What I’d like for you to see today is that Jesus taught this sinner about God. And He tells her what is necessary to worship Him. Verse 21 *“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. (22) Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.*

*(23) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

Don’t you think we make worship more complicated than that? God isn’t complicated. He’s a Person just like you. But He’s God and there are a lot of things about God that are all God and not human whatsoever. But, folks, the sooner we see Him as He is, the more you will love and appreciate and worship Him.

Here are some basics of worship. You can easily see that the message of Jesus to this woman that day revolved, not around her immoral lifestyle as important as that was; not around the fact that she was a Samaritan; but around what it means to worship.

First, then, Worship the Father. Verse 21 *“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem,* ***worship the Father****.”*

Do you remember this? Luke 11:2 *“when you pray, say Father…”* On that day, the disciples had just witnessed Jesus praying. And so they asked Him “LORD, teach us to pray.” So, He said “when you pray, say Father…”

Don’t you think that on the day you begin to see the LORD as Father, that that is the beginning of worship? Say this in prayer to Him right now “Father…” That’s all! Just Father. That’s what the disciples must have done when they heard Jesus say that that day.

That’s Who He is. He’s Father. He’s your Father if you’ve come to Him and received Jesus as your personal Savior. It’s just one word. But it’s worship.

One of the great servants of the LORD of days gone by wrote this word on worship.

“Only to sit and think of God, Oh, what joy it is!

To think the thought, to breathe the Name, Earth has no higher bliss!

Father of Jesus, love’s Reward, What rapture will it be,

Prostrate before Thy throne to lie And gaze, and gaze on Thee.” [F.W. Faber].

You see, sometimes it’s just one word. Do you remember the one word of Mary on the first Easter morning? John 20:16 *“Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.”*

The Jews, remember, had a worship center: Jerusalem. It was the place where the LORD had once told them He would put His Name. In I Kings chapter 8, the LORD says (16) *“Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house,* ***that my name might be therein****; but I chose David to be over my people Israel. (17) And it was in the heart of David my father* ***to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel****.*

*(18) And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart* ***to build an house unto my name****, thou didst well that it was in thine heart. (19) Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins,* ***he shall build the house unto my name****.”*

We know that house to be Solomon’s Temple, of which nothing is left today. Here is a replica of it. Solomon took ten years to build it (it lasted 961 BC to 586 BC) and it was exactly double the size of the original Tabernacle.

This is a life-sized replica of Solomon’s Temple. It’s a 10,000 seat Church in Brazil, completed last July. It’s eleven stories high and takes up an entire city block inn Sao Paulo, Brazil.

So, initially the LORD did require a house to be built for the Jews to worship at. It was on Mount Zion. And the Temple was the worship center for the Jews, the priesthood, the offerings, the music, the reading of the Scriptures all took place here.

But Samaritans had their own house of worship. Theirs was on Mount Gerazim. And did you notice what Jesus said to this woman about her place of worship? v. 21 *“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem,* ***worship the Father****.”*

The Jews worshipped at the temple on Mount Moriah. And the Samaritans worshipped in their temple on Mount Gerazim. This is all that is left of the worship house of the Samaritans. Archeologists still dig in the remains of the Samaritan Temple on Mount Gerazim in Israel.

Think about it like this: this is a place to worship.

* Either the Jews at Mount Zion in Jerusalem
* Or the Samaritans at Mount Gerazim
* Worship occurs at a particular location on a particular day and time

But Jesus isn’t speaking here about a place where you could worship. He’s talking about individual, simple, genuine worship; worship that reflects the true nature of the LORD. It’s worship, but it doesn’t have to be in a particular place or at a specified time.

John 4:21 *“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.”*

You can almost say that it’s a near requirement that if you worship God today, you have to have a place to do it. Nearly every Church, every denomination, every religion on earth has a *place* for their worship of God. But, what the LORD is saying is that WORSHIP isn’t just in a building. Instead, WORSHIP HIS FATHER.

It doesn’t have to occur at a place or at a specific time. Rather, it’s a focus on a PERSON *wherever* you are, inside or outside, in an airplane or in a car, out on the ocean or on land; high up on a mountain, at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

And why is this? Because the LORD can be worshipped anywhere. He’s invisible. He’s immaterial. He’s a non-physical Person. He’s Spirit. And the soul that sees God as He is can worship Him as He is.

Listen again to what Jesus says, “Worship the FATHER.” Who is He, but a Father, the Eternal Father? He’s the Father of His Creatures. He designed and built the entire universe. He’s the Father of Israel. He called the Jews out of Egypt and into the wilderness for worship. He’s the Father of Jesus. *And*, He’s the Father of all those who has trusted His Son and received His free gift of salvation.

Now, can you see what a true worshipper is? It’s someone who knows sees God as He really is; who knows God personally, and someone who has God as his Father.

Worship is, in part, your opinion of God. It’s seeing the LORD as He is – the Creator/Savior/Father. And, your worship is offered because you are His child. Every child knows his father. He loves his father. He obeys his father. He adores and appreciates and serves him.

I wondered this week again as I read this passage in John 4. Did this woman of Samaria have serious issues with her father which resulted in five marriages that all failed?

Folks, Jesus knew this woman’s heart just like He knows yours. But, did you notice that He didn’t direct her into another religion? That He didn’t direct her into another location? Instead, He directed her to exactly the same place you need to be directed to – His Father.

You see, if you have a right perspective of God, you are a worshipper. He’s a Father. A worshipper honors Him as He is. A worshipper doesn’t let religion get in the way. Don’t let this building get in the way. Don’t let who’s right and who’s wrong get in the way. “Worship the Father” says the Son.

Someone has said it this way. In real estate, you’ll often hear “location, location, location.” And often with religious people, it’s “location, location, location.” But, in worship, it’s always “The FATHER, the FATHER, the FATHER.”

First, Worship is seeing God for Who He is and honoring Him. “Worship the Father.” (John 4:21)

Second, there is no worship apart from the saving relationship to God. Notice what else Jesus says to this sinner. John 4:22 *“Ye [Samaritans] worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for* ***salvation is of the Jews****.”*

Salvation comes first. The Samaritans certainly knew about God. They had a Bible. They knew about the Promised Messiah. And, they had built a place to worship “their own way.” And, as you can tell from what Jesus says here, they were wrong. They should never have separated from the Jews, especially in the matter of knowing and worshipping God.

“Salvation is of the Jews” says Jesus. This implies that the Samaritans had forsaken the LORD God. They had rejected salvation and done as so many have done through the centuries. They turned to religion; their religion; the religion of the Samaritans.

Folks, please watch for the simplicity that is in Christ. One, in true worship, see God as He truly is – The Father. Two, in true worship, begin with Salvation. To be saved means “to be rescued from the penalty and power of your sins by having trusted Jesus Christ alone.”

Go with me to John 3:17 “*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that* ***the world through him might be saved****.”* And John 5:34 *“But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say,* ***that ye might be saved****.”* And John 10:9 *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in,* ***he shall be saved****, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”*

Folks, “in true worship we see God as He truly is – The Father.” But, if you would truly worship the Father, you need to also believe what Christ says about being saved.

So, this is always the critical question. Have you been rescued from the penalty and power of your sins? If so, then you’ve come in the right door, so-to-speak. You’ve received His Son as your LORD and Savior. Now, having been saved, you can worship God as your Father because He is your Father.

First, then, worship is seeing God as He is – the Father – and honoring Him – v. 21

Second, worship begins with salvation – v.22

Third, true worship is carried out in the right spirit v. 23

John 4:23 *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

Can you see Jesus telling this Samaritan woman “how” to worship? Can you see His emphasis on what’s going on in her spirit?

Listen again to His words. What kind of worshipper is the Father looking for? One type: a spiritual worshipper. And what does a spiritual worshipper look like?

Let me offer these few things:

One, God's temple is you.

I Corinthians 3:16 tells us plainly where the Temple of the LORD is today *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”*

At the moment of your salvation, the Holy Spirit came to indwell you. He indwells every Believer in Jesus Christ. And because He lives in you, you are the temple of God. Once, back in history, God’s Temple was physical and material. Now, it’s completely spiritual. Once, it was in Jerusalem. Now, it’s within the spirit of every child of God.

One, God's temple is you.

Two, every Christian is a priest.

And as a priest, God calls you to offer up spiritual sacrifices. I Peter 2:5 says this *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood,* ***to offer up spiritual sacrifices****, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”*

Hebrews 13:15 says *“By him therefore let us* ***offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually****, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”*

One, God's temple is you.

Two, every Christian is a priest.

Three, your prayers in worship are compared to the incense used by the O.T. priests. Revelation 5:8 says *“And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”*

Revelation 8:3 says *“And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. (4) And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.”*

One, God's temple is you.

Two, every Christian is a priest.

Three, your prayers in worship are compared to the incense

And four, whenever we sing or minister to the LORD in music, we do so from our hearts. Ephesians 5:19 says *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;…”*

When you worship, you see the LORD as He truly is – The Father. v. 21

Worship begins with salvation v. 22

God calls you to bring spiritual worship v. 23

And God calls you to worship Him with your spirit.

One servant of God puts it this way. “True worship is God-centered worship. Worship and praise is reserved only for God. Only He is worthy; not any of His servants. We are not to worship saints, prophets, statues, angels, any other false gods, or even Mary, mother of Jesus.

We also should not be worshiping for the expectation of something in return, such as a miraculous healing and some material provision. Worship is God-ward. It’s for God's pleasure that you worship. It can be public praise to God, in a corporate setting, where we can worship Him together through music and praise our adoration

and thankfulness for Him for what He has done for you.

Or, it can be in a private setting when you are alone. True worship is both inward and upward. Then, you see it through your actions. Going through the motions out of obligation is certainly not pleasing to God. The Pharisees did it that way and it was done completely in vain.

Folks, He can see through all the hypocrisy. Worship is to glorify and exalt God; to show your loved and your loyalty and your admiration to your Father.” – copied

So, where are you in the matter of worship?

Folks, you may attend Church your entire life. You may have heard the Gospel a thousand times. But if you’ve never repented; if you’ve never received Christ as your Savior, then all your efforts for Him, all your attempts at justification, all your profession of being a Christian amounts to nothing.

God will not grant you entrance into His heaven. Your spiritual condition must change from condemnation to justification in order for you to enter the realms of glory. Try though you will, without an awareness of your sin and its awfulness before God and without an awareness that apart from Christ you will never get out from under the condemnation of your sin, you cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven.

Folks, God has worked the work of salvation for you at the Cross of His Son. Christ died. He’s made salvation available and offers to you. Yet, if you refuse it; if you reject the Cross as God’s only answer for your condemnation, you will close your eyes in death one day and stand before Him as your Judge.

Please repent and be saved. It’s the only way to die. And it’s the only way to live. The only way to truly live is God’s way. Why go on in your way when there’s a way provided that will completely transform you?

That way is the Cross of Christ. He did it all. And the moment you repent is the moment all of these things become true in your life. His is a God-only salvation. Try anything else. Get anything else mixed into it, and it’s no longer His work.

You see, when it’s pure God; when it’s God alone; when it’s His work and none of yours, you will be saved, and not until. But, once you are saved, everything changes. At that moment, the Cross becomes *your* answer.

So, what will you do? Will you leave with the same thoughts you came today? Will you turn back to your own life and refuse His life today? If so, why? What would make you return to your own life when He’s made a plentiful and glorious provision for your soul?

Don’t leave today without a true experience of the Cross in your heart and life. Come to Christ and be saved today. It’s the only way.

Repent = to change your mind about God, Christ, your sin, and God’s free gift of salvation?

Believe = to simply trust the Lord Jesus Christ alone as the One Who paid the entire penalty for your sins?

This is a simple prayer. You can pray something similar if you are responding to these words today. Make them your words and put your trust in Jesus Christ today.

“LORD, I admit I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus died in my place on the cross. I repent of my sins. I want to be completely forgiven today. I am trusting you right now to save me. Thank you. Amen.

Will you let Him have His way with your as you abide in His word?

Shall we pray? Now, please sing with me “We Worship You, Almighty God.”

Extend invitation.