



Sunday, January 13, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to John 4

The story of the Samaritan woman gives us a lot of clarity when it comes to what and how we worship. For the Samaritan woman, worship was very much tied to her family history and their place of worship (on the mountain). That is true of many Christians today. Our “Christianity” can easily be something that we associate with family or a particular place, but God does not want us to focus our devotion to Him on other people or the place in which we choose to gather with them to worship. Often times, someone will be well-connected to a local church and, when they move away, fail to get connected to a new local church. The reason often given is that they cannot find a place that is the same as the one they left. This is problematic on a number of levels, but two specifics are addressed by this passage: 1) worshipping God is not unique to a particular local church, it can be done anywhere and 2) worshipping God is not unique to a particular group of people, it can be done with anyone. I’m sure Jesus and the Samaritan woman (and her fellow Samaritans) did not have much in common culturally. But as He introduced Himself as the Messiah—the rightful king of the universe—they gathered there to worship Him (4:39-42).

May we be a people that is more concerned with worshipping God than satisfying our preferences.

Context

John 4 provides an excellent example of how missions is aimed at creating true worshipers. As John Piper has said, “missions exists because worship doesn’t.” So, as people come into contact with the living God in the person of Jesus Christ, they respond with total devotion and become Christians as they become worshipers of the one, true God.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read John 4:21-26

“The Heart of Worship”

1) With regard to the Person we worship

a. Father ...relationship

b. Spirit ...nature

2) With regard to the Way we worship

a. Spirit ...sincerity

b. Truth ...biblically

God is Father

God is Spirit

God is Seeking

Discuss

- 1) Read Matthew 15:8-9. What motivates people to offer “false worship” to God?
- 2) How can we prepare our hearts to worship God in a way that is pleasing to Him?
- 3) Why do you think we are prone to judge others on how they worship God? What motivates us to do that?
- 4) Pastor Don made it clear that, when we gather, we do not consume “worship,” we produce it. How does that change the way you view our time together on Sunday mornings?
- 5) If worship is all-encompassing, touching every area of our lives, what area(s) of your life are not currently devoted to worshipping God?