

Why We Worship the Father

International Bible Lesson

John 4:7-15, 23-26, 28-30

Sunday, April 22, 2012

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“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” (John 4:23—KJV).

“But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God's Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants” (John 4:23—GNB).

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him” (John 4:23—NRSV).

When the Samaritan woman asked Jesus about the right place to worship, Jesus told her that true worship was not a matter of location. Furthermore, Jesus refused to debate about the differences between the Samaritan and the Jewish views of worshipping God. He told her “true worshipers will worship the Father.” True worshipers will come to God both spiritually and truthfully. Jesus said, “God is Spirit, those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). Acceptable worship involves a proper attitude and purpose. For example, how much concern for God does someone bring to their worship of God? Do they intend to give love, praise, and thanks to God? Do they seek to learn from God how best to serve Him and others? However, worshipping God in spirit involves more than a right attitude.

God is Spirit. When God creates human beings, He puts a spirit within them. True worship involves a relationship and communication between God's Spirit and our spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells those who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When the Holy Spirit comes to live within a believer, God's Spirit draws close to their spirit; therefore, true worship can occur at any time and place, with others or alone with God. The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible, and worship includes thinking about the truth that God has revealed in the Bible. True worship involves coming to the Father with honesty and praying for His loving Spirit to teach us the truth about things seen and unseen.

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