

Why We Worship the Father

International Bible Lesson

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

Sunday, April 22, 2012

“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 worshiping 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, worshiping 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.

— © Copyright 2012 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

You may reprint or reproduce this *International Bible Lesson* for not-for-profit use. More Uniform Series Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org

Thinking Further

1. When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman, what example did He give?
2. Why do you think Jesus emphasized that what He had to give her was “the gift of God”?
3. What type of worshipers does God the Father seek?
4. Why do you think Jesus revealed to her directly, instead of indirectly as He often did with some, that He was the Messiah?
5. Why might the woman’s testimony about Jesus and what He had done have influenced the townspeople to go out and meet Him? Why was her question more important to them than if she had simply declared that she had met the Messiah?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.