



The Worshipers the Father Seeks **John 4:20-29**

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 an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers (John 4:23—NASB).

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).

For several years ministers and parishioners have discussed worship styles and the effects of contemporary, traditional, and blended worship styles on church growth. Debates on worship styles have even been labeled “the worship wars.” Missing from some of these conversations is the question, “What does God want?” When the Samaritan woman wanted to discuss true places of worship with Jesus, Jesus changed the focus and told her that more important than places of worship are what kind of worshipers the Father wanted. Jesus revealed to her that the Father wants, and even seeks, true worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. Perhaps ministers and parishioners need to pray and ask God how they can help people best worship God in spirit, with heartfelt love for God and a deep desire to glorify God, and

what they can do to promote the true spirit of worship. Perhaps they need to ask the Father what they and others need to do to worship God in truth, with a right understanding of who God is and what He requires of His children. From reading the entire New Testament, translators are also justified when translating Jesus' words as uppercase Spirit and Truth. The Father seeks those who will worship God in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, who Jesus sends to indwell all who receive Him as Lord and Savior. Furthermore, the Father seeks those who worship God in Truth. In John 14:6 and in 17:17, Jesus proclaimed that He is the Truth and God's Word is Truth.

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think the Samaritan woman asked Jesus a question about where people should worship?
2. What did Jesus tell the woman to do in John 4:21? What does that command mean to you?
3. How does a true follower of Jesus worship? What kind of person does the Father seek to worship Him?
4. What did the woman tell Jesus she believed about the Messiah? Was her belief right or wrong? What did Jesus tell her in response?
5. What did the woman do after she believed in Jesus? Why did she do this?

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