“TRUE WORSHIPPERS AND TRUE WORSHIP”

JOHN 4:19-26

INTRO: Well, here we are for another Sunday. To some people Sunday is just another day of the week. To some people Sunday is just another holiday. To some people Sunday is a time for rest and for relaxation. To some people Sunday is a time to get done what was not done earlier in the week. To some people Sunday is the day to go to church because it is the thing to do. To some people Sunday is the day to go to church because they have a ministry to perform there. To some people Sunday is the day to go to church to worship the Lord with other Christians. This leads us to two questions: 1) WHAT IS SUNDAY TO YOU? 2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WORSHIP THE LORD? I believe the Lord would have it that we recognize Sunday as being HIS DAY that is set apart unto Him for us to worship Him for His glory. BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WORSHIP THE LORD? Now, that is a GOOD QUESTION because it is possible that many believers have rarely considered it and if they have, they may not have done much about it. So today we are going to study from John 4:19-26 the concept of TRUE WORSHIPPERS AND TRUE WORSHIP as taught by JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF.

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SOME CONSIDERATION:
- MANY Christians have never worshipped God properly and MANY Christians have lost the REALITY of worship.
- MANY Christians have NO CONCEPT of Biblical Worship and MANY Christians don’t care what Biblical Worship is all about.
- MANY Christians are in danger of being CHASTISED by the Lord because of conducting FALSE or IRREVERENT worship and yet they have no concern about it at all.

SO WHAT ABOUT YOU?

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THE CONTEXT OF JOHN CHAPTER 4:
1) Jesus was traveling from Jerusalem to Galilee and CHOSE to go through Samaria which was a place the JEWS RESISTED because the Samaritans were a mixed-breed of JEW AND GENTILE and did not believe all of God’s Law. They just held to the PENTATEUCH and not the rest of the OT.
2) Jesus, according to verse 4 “MUST NEEDS GO THROUGH SAMARIA.” The normal way for the Jews to go from Jerusalem to Galilee was through Perea, which was EAST of the Jordan River. But Jesus WENT STRAIGHT THROUGH SAMARIA so that He could speak to a Samaritan Woman and introduce Himself to her as the Messiah.
3) Jesus, in the midst of the conversation with the woman gave a very clear teaching on TRUE WORSHIPPERS and TRUE WORSHIP.

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I. WHAT IS A TRUE WORSHIPPER OF GOD? Vs. 23

A. Those who realize that Jesus is the Truth of God – John 14:6
B. Those who realize that Jesus is the Only way to God – Acts 4:12
C. Those who realize that Jesus is the Only Lord – 1 Corinthians 8:6
D. Those who realize that Jesus is the Channel through which to worship God the Father – John 1:18
E. Those who realize that Biblical Worship is grounded in the Sound Doctrine of all that Christ is – 2 John 1:9

ILLUSTRATION:
II. WHAT IS TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD? Vss. 23,24

“MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH”

NOTE: God the Father actually SEESKS those to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth
- God is not interested in empty worship
- God is disgraced with empty worship
- God disregards empty worship

NOTE: Jesus says worshippers “MUST WORSHIP” in Spirit and Truth. Jesus is not speaking of a DESIRABLE ELEMENT in worship, but that which is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!

THE POINT: Biblically speaking the worship of God is a MUST, but worship that is in SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH is also a MUST! ANY OLD WAY OR FORM OF WORSHIP IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOD!  Note Isaiah 1:10-17

A. Worship In Spirit
1. This is NOT speaking of the Holy Spirit
2. This IS speaking of having the PROPER ATTITUDE IN WORSHIP.
   a. God is not impressed with MERE outward actions of worship.
      That is, any form or expression of worship without substance!
   b. God is exalted with GENUINE inward attitudes of worship.
      1) By true Born-Again believers
      2) By Confessed Sin of believers
      3) By Restricted Focus on God of believers
      4) By a Desire to Truly Exalt God by believers
      5) By a Heart with Pure Godly Motives within believers
      
      BE HONEST: IS YOUR WORSHIP BEING CONDUCTED IN SPIRIT?

B. Worship In Truth
1. Worshipping in Truth DISCONSIDERS any personal or fleshly attitudes, actions or activities of worship.
2. Worshipping in Truth CONSIDERS worshipping God consistently as REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE. That is, yielding to what the Bible says about God and true worship.
   a. God ALONE is to be worshipped – Exodus 20:3-5; Matthew 4:10
   (Two of the five words for worship are used in Matthew 4:10.) “PROSKUNEIO” is translated “worship” and “LATREUO” is translated “serve” but both mean WORSHIP.)
   b. God is to be worshipped according to His Greatness
      -1Chronicles 16:29
      1) With an Offering
      2) With Holiness
   c. God is to be worshipped in Humility, recognizing His Greatness
      -Psalm 95:6
   d. God is to be worshipped in Song
      -Psalm 33:3; 47:6; Colossians 3:16
   e. God is to be worshipped with Instruments
      -1 Chronicles 23:5; Revelation 5:8; 14:2
   f. God is to be worshipped with Loud Noise
      -Psalm 98:4 (A true joyful noise to the author of salvation)
   g. God is to be worshipped in Silence
      -Habakkuk 2:20

NOTE: ALL TRUE WORSHIP IS TO BE FOCUSED ON GOD ONLY WITHOUT THE PLANNING OR EXPECTATION OF PERSONAL OR FLESHLY GAINS.

ILLUSTRATION:

III. WHAT CAN WE DO TO BE TRUE WORSHIPPERS OF GOD WHO CONDUCT TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD?

MAINTAIN PERSONAL SPIRITUAL PREPARATION
A. Be a Saved Child of God
B. Be a Sanctified Servant of God
C. Be a Student of the Greatness of God
D. Be a Saint with a Walk with God
E. Be a Serious Exalter of God
ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION/CONCLUSION:
God never has been nor ever will be pleased with anyone who just goes through the motions of worship. One is better off NOT to go through the motions of worship if the HEART ATTITUDE is not proper. Consider Revelation 4:1-3. This text teaches us that TRUE WORSHIP CANNOT BE WITHHELD when we see the GREATNESS OF GOD! LET'S GET A CLOSER LOOK AT GOD!