



True Worship: In Spirit and in Truth

Series: The Wonder of Worship

John 4:1-26

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So far, as we have been in this sermon series regarding worship, we have been laying the foundation for the nature of worship by looking at the character and person of the God who demands our praise and adoration. In the pages of Scripture, we have beheld the glory and supremacy, the majesty and the splendor of God – His holiness, His sovereignty, His righteousness and justice, His mercy and steadfast, unchanging love, His amazing grace – and all of it coming to its fullest expression in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the radiance of the glory of God. In order to worship God, we need to know God, right? That’s why we started as we did. This morning, though, we are beginning a shift in focus to looking at the nature and character of true worship. How do we worship the True and Living God who has revealed Himself in Christ? Why is worship central to who and what we are as human beings? And why does true worship matter? We are going to begin answering a few of those questions this morning as we look at this incredible text in John 4.

From the lips of Christ, we have some of the most important words regarding true worship that we find anywhere in the Bible and amazingly, this conversation is had, not with a high priest in Israel, not with one of the scribes or Pharisees, not even with one of His disciples. One of the most important conversations that Jesus ever had on the subject of worship, He has with a serial adulteress from Samaria. It’s shocking to think that and it is a manifestation of amazing grace. So let’s look at this text together this morning. And rather than break this story up with an outline, I just want us to work our way through the text, following the progression of this conversation as it is presented to us, what it tells us about this woman, what it tells us about Christ, and what it tells us about worship. So let’s dig in. This is going to be great.

“Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. And he had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a

town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour." (John 4:1–6, ESV)

Let's set the context. The backstory is simply this: the ministry of Jesus in Judea had been successful. People were hearing Him preach and were gripped by His authority and were repenting and believing the gospel and were being baptized in greater numbers than those that heard John the Baptist. The Pharisees had become aware of what was going on and so in order to keep the Pharisees from using the growth of Jesus' ministry to create a wedge between His disciples and the disciples of John, Jesus departed from the region to head to Galilee. And it is here, in the language that is used, that we get the first hint of what is going on.

John writes that he had to pass through Samaria. Now you need to know that it was not a geographical necessity for Him to pass through Samaria. It was the shortest route from Judea to Galilee, but most pious Jews would never go that way. They preferred to take a route which went to the north of Judea, east of the Jordan, then back into Galilee, a route which took them through areas heavily inhabited by Gentiles, so repulsive was the idea of setting foot in Samaritan lands. It was possible for Jesus to follow that well-traveled route from Judea to Galilee, but He didn't. In fact, the language used here by John makes clear that He couldn't.

The word that is translated "had to" is a word that John used to describe the duty, the necessity of Jesus to do something in accordance with the Father's will, in fulfillment of His plan and purpose. It is a spiritual requirement, the constraint of sovereign grace, a divine appointment that has been made for Him by the Father before the foundation of the world with a certain woman to whom He would reveal Himself as the Savior and of whom He would make a true worshipper of the Living God. His purpose for being there is to reveal Himself as Messiah and to make this woman a true worshipper of the Eternal God. So Jesus comes to the well at Sychar at noon, sits down weary from His travel, and awaits the arrival of this woman of Samaria. He doesn't have to wait long. John says:

"A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with

Samaritans.)” (John 4:7–9, ESV) A woman shows up at the well to draw water. It isn’t the normal time that someone would do this. Usually the woman would come to the well early in the morning, before the oppressive heat of the sun began to bake the ground and make labor like this unbearable. But she is here, and the conversation begins.

At first, she keeps silent, going about her business, most likely expecting a frowning look of disapproval. By the way that Jesus is dressed, she can tell that He is a Jew. So silently she draws water, perhaps taking a drink herself, but she is not expecting what happens next. “Give me a drink,” Jesus says, and the woman was shocked. First, she would have been surprised that Jesus spoke to her at all. The Rabbis had stated: “A man shall not be alone with a woman in an inn, not even with his sister or his daughter, on account of what men may think, A man shall not talk with a woman in the street, not even with his own wife, and especially not with another woman, on account of what men may say.” So for Jesus to speak to her is highly improper.

So that’s one thing, but second, Jesus is a Jew and Jews, as a rule never interacted with Samaritans. That’s why she responds saying, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” There was rabid animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans that went back centuries. Jews hated Samaritans. They were considered half-breeds. The Samaritans were the result of the deportation of the ten northern tribes when Israel was conquered by Assyria in 721 B.C. The Assyrians brought in others to populate the conquered territory and these people intermarried with the few Israelites that remained. The Samaritans even set up a temple at Mount Gerizim. They rejected Jerusalem as the center of worship and built their own Temple on Mt Gerazim in Samaria and they followed only the first five books of the Bible, but that only after serious revision. For that reason, Samaritans were hated and reviled by most Jews. She was startled that Jesus had spoken to her and even more shocked that he would ask for a drink from her “unclean” vessel.

But what does this show us. It shows us that God is not a respecter of persons. The distinctions that make for differences among men and women mean nothing with God. When Jesus was seeking to make true worshippers of the Living God, race, age, social status, money, influence, looks, nationality, or religion meant absolutely nothing to Him. That she was a woman and a Samaritan could do nothing to deflect the earnest pursuit of her soul by Jesus Christ. In response to her statement, we see:

“Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”” (John 4:10, ESV) Notice how Jesus turns the tables on her. At first He was thirsty she was the one with the water. Now He was speaking to her as if she were the thirsty one and He had the water. She needed a drink from His fountain. The issue is no longer His physical thirst, but her spiritual need. She couldn’t understand where he was going with this, but Jesus was offering her living water for her dry and thirsty soul.

With these words, Jesus exposes her spiritual ignorance. She is ignorant as to who Jesus is. She sees Him as a Jew, but she stops short of perceiving Who He truly is. The word for “knew” is the word, “eido,” that means to perceive with your eyes and to understand what it is that you are beholding. Jesus Christ is the gift of God, the richest token of God's love to us, and the richest treasure of all good for us; a gift, not a debt which we could demand from God; and not a loan, which we must repay, but a gift. Here is the only begotten Son of God, full of grace and truth, given as redeemer of His people, the source of all blessing and the promises of God, the Lamb of God, the very gift of God, and she does not perceive His worth. She cannot. “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14, ESV)

She lacked perception. Jesus said to her if you knew who I was, you would ask of me and I would give you Living Water – I would give you eternal life. I would give you pardoning and justifying and sanctifying and preserving grace. I would make your dead soul live. She did not see his glory or know of his salvation. If she had, she would have forgotten all about his request for a drink of water and sought from him a far greater gift, living water. Living water is a metaphor taken from the OT and particularly powerful in an arid land, where living or fresh, running water was particularly precious. In Jeremiah 2:13 the Lord says, “For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.” (Jeremiah 2:13, ESV) "Living water", as a biblical image, speaks of God’s grace, eternal life, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Speaking as one who is still a worldling, still spiritually ignorant:

“The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”” (John 4:11–12, ESV) Is he greater

than Jacob? Incomparably. Is his water more refreshing than Jacob's? Infinitely. In fact, the truth is this, only Christ can satisfy the deepest eternal desires of the human heart. She just doesn't see it yet.

"Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'" (John 4:13–14, ESV) The real issue of man is not physical thirst, but spiritual thirst and there is nothing in this world that can satisfy the raging thirst in every human soul. He is thirsty for love, for happiness, for security, for fulfillment, for acceptance, and whether he knows is or not, for eternal life. Though they may not know it or be able to articulate it, man is thirsty for the forgiveness of his sins that weigh on his mind even when he will not admit it to himself, thirsty above all for eternity, for a life that does not end in either blackness or judgment. He is thirsty, in other words, for all that he was made for in the image of God. He is thirsty for God and for the knowledge of God and for communion with God.

Men and women will always try to slake that thirst. They draw from all the wrong wells but still they keep drawing up the bucket. It is why men try to entertain themselves to death. That is why people take such immense amounts of prescription drugs and illegal drugs as they do. It is why they drink to excess. It is why they devote themselves so religiously to career advancement or to sports or to music or to anything else. And, it is why they labor to drown out the voice of their conscience and the fear of death. But nothing can slake that burning thirst but living water. Nothing can satisfy our souls except Living Water from the Prince of Life. Still thinking in earthly terms

"The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'" (John 4:15, ESV) Her view is still so earthly. And Jesus' words to her are strong. Christ's words are a double edged sword – cutting to heal.

"Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.'" (John 4:16–18, ESV) It would have been very tempting for Jesus – for any of us— to just ignore

the sin in her life and comfort her in her situation without dealing with the root issue, to try to make her feel better. But He refuses to do that. That would be of no benefit to her soul. Just glossing over sin is never good for the human soul. Jesus really does desire to give her the living water of life. He is going to make her a true worshipper of the Living God, but before He can do that they have to deal with her sin, with the turmoil and trouble of her life.

Now we understand why she is drawing water away from all of the other women, why she is alone. She's gotten around. She is ashamed. Her life is pit of moral ruin. This is the kind of woman Jesus has come to meet at the well of Sychar to make her a true worshipper of God, to redeem her, to give her living water that springs up within her soul...a woman soiled by sin. Jesus is longing to give her the gift of life, but his not going to give her living water without dealing with the brokenness of her sinful life.

Until a sinner sees himself as God sees him, he will never see his need. People must have their conscience pierced, must have their eyes opened, they must see themselves as they are. She will never see any beauty in Christ as a Savior, until she deals with the truth that she is a lost and ruined sinner. Jesus calls her sin what it is. Serial adultery. Five husbands, and the man she is with is not her husband. He exposes her sin. Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." See the beauty of what Christ does here. Jesus tells her to do two things. The first was serious and searching; the second gracious and precious. "Go," He said, "call your husband"—that was a word addressed to her conscience, a word meant to convict her. But He doesn't stop there. "And come here"—that was a word for her heart, a word of grace. The force of what He said was this: If you really want this living water of which I have been telling you, you can obtain it only as a poor, convicted, repentant sinner. She was not only to go and call the man she was with, but she was to come back to Christ just as she was, without any excuse. John said that Jesus was "full of grace and truth." And here it is clearly seen. He gives her truth for her conscience; and grace for her heart. Truth which required her to confront and confess the truth about herself and grace which invited her to come before Christ as she was. Jesus knew all about this woman—her heart, her life, her very thoughts; nothing could be hidden from Him. She might be a complete stranger to Him in the flesh, yet was He thoroughly acquainted with her.

The same is true of all of us. There must be a rending of our hearts, a desperate realization of who and what we are before there can be a filling of the soul. She is undone. She thinks, "This

man is prophet, he can see right through me.” So she says the only thing that comes to her mind.

“The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”” (John 4:19–20, ESV) It isn’t the greatest confession in Biblical history, but don’t miss the import of what she is saying. When she calls Jesus a prophet, she is in effect saying, “You are right. That is me. That’s my sinful life.” The woman's conscience had been aroused by Christ's declaration of her sin. He was touching upon matters of the most vital importance, and her depraved heart naturally shrunk from the scalpel of His words. She tries to change the subject. And trying to avoid the issue of her sin, without even knowing it she touches on the real issue. It is her worship. That is the reason for the condition of her soul. Here’s why that is -- the object and character of worship, what and how you worship will be revealed by your life, by the character of your life. In response to her evasion,

“Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.” (John 4:21–22, ESV)

She seeks to sort of turn His attention away, but in so doing walks right into the truth, right into Jesus’ “grace trap.” Her life was in disarray. Why? Because the focus of her life was not God. The central reality of her life was not a worshipful relationship with the Living God. Her problem was not that she was not a worshipper, she was. Her problem was that she was not a worshipper of the Living God and her life showed it. And mark this down: Where there is no worship of God, there is no spiritual life, there is no knowledge of God, and there is no salvation. It was true of the Samaritans as a whole and it was true of her individually.

Jesus points out the first problem of the Samaritan people as a whole. You worship what you do not know. You are worshipping a god of your own creation, a god of your own imagination. But we, the Jews worship the true God, and even more than that we know that salvation is from the Jews, salvation comes through the Jews. That was the Samaritan problem collectively and her problem individually. This is not a secondary issue. Mankind is under judgment specifically for suppressing and rejecting the truth about God and for false worship. “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth...Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their

hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.” (Romans 1:18,25, ESV) they worshipped another god.

What did she bow her life before? Sex? Security? Acceptance? We don’t know for sure, but it wasn’t God and her life is a ruin as a result. You see, here’s the thing, you become like what you worship. What you worship is always revealed by the way you live. Worship money, become a greedy person. Worship sex, become a lustful person. Worship power, become a corrupt person. Worship yourself, become a prideful person. Worship conformity and tradition, become a Pharisee. Worship appearances, become and stay a spiritually shallow person. But worship Jesus, and become like Christ. Here is this woman, being confronted by the greatest worshipper of the Father who ever walked the earth, Jesus Himself, who always, the Bible says, pleased the Father, and confronted by a true worshipper and the definition of true worship, her heart is revealed. This woman was a product of her worship. She was a product of what she esteemed most in life and what she esteemed most in life was not Father God. The gods we worship will write their names on our faces, be sure of that. And a man or woman will worship something – be sure of that too. What dominates your heart will dominate your character.

And there is something else vitally important here. Jesus tells her basically, “Even more than that, there is coming a time, one that is now here, where the ground of worship, of true worship, will not be a Temple, not be a building at all. That’s not where you will meet with God. Now I want to explain what Jesus is saying in the flow of this conversation, where He is going with this because so many people get the wrong impression. Some people think that what Jesus is saying is, “You’re no longer going to worship at the temple; you can worship God anywhere, because God is everywhere.” But that's not what Jesus is saying.

He's not saying that back in the day you worshiped at the temple, but now you can worship anywhere. It's something far more profound. He's saying, “Once you worshiped at the temple; but now the place of worship is in Me, though Me.” No man comes to the Father but by the Son. If you want to know and worship the True God, there is only One Way and that One Way is Jesus.” Worship must be centered in Him. That is what Jesus is saying and He will make it explicitly clear a few verses later. But he goes on to say:

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23–24, ESV) Jesus’ message was, “I am here talking to you because God is at work, the Father in heaven is seeking true worshippers to worship Him.” Understand that when Jesus says that God is seeking true worshippers, God has been seeking worshipers since the fall of man. Why does God himself have to do the seeking? Because as sinners we cannot seek him. It is utterly impossible for a sinner to seek and worship God truly unless God seeks him and makes him able to do so. No man will ever truly worship God until he is sought of God and taught by his grace to worship him in Spirit and in truth. “Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!” (Psalm 65:4, ESV) God looks down and seeks sinners, rebels, and creation worshipers--spiritually blind people and by His grace, He makes them worshippers. God seeks us, saves us, opens our eyes to the glory of Christ and gives us saving knowledge of Him. When that happens, we will worship Him. How will we worship Him? Jesus said to her: God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

I want you to understand the nature of the word that is translated as worship here. The word is a picturesque Greek word “proskuneo.” That word means to bend down before, to kiss the hand of, to prostrate yourself before someone. It speaks about getting low in someone’s presence. It speaks about glad submission--the worshiper gladly humbling himself before someone greater. It means to honor and respect a person of great worth and to express that honor and respect. Worship is worthship, in other words. That is the essence of worship. It is declaring what is of ultimate worth in your life. Someone, something, has ultimate worth in your life, determines the course of your life, arranges the steps of your life. Who or what is it? That person is to be God. That is what you were made for.

Jesus says we must worship God in spirit and in truth. Worshiping in spirit is the opposite of worshiping in mere external ways. It's the opposite of formalism and traditionalism. To worship God in spirit simply means that our worship should be supernatural, full of passion, engaging the whole person. Worship must come from the depths of your soul. Just as in a committed marriage you will have times of ecstatic joy, passionate love, tears of happiness, and quiet embrace – worship in spirit will have the same. Real worship begins in the spirit, in the heart of the worshiper. It is not about temples in Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim. It is not about the church on the corner. Real worship takes place in the heart. That’s worshipping in spirit -- with the entire spiritual drive and ability of the soul, seeking the most intimate fellowship and

communion with Him, with the spiritual core of one's being, trusting and resting on God's love, acceptance and care, with real expression of delight and love. That worship which is no more than an outward religious work, ritual, ceremony, formality, or service is not true worship.

Worshiping in truth is the opposite of worship based on an inadequate view of God. Just as Jesus told this woman that true worship arises out of the spirit, He also said that true worship must be practiced in truth. This tells us that our worship of God must be built upon a knowledge of Who He is and that He must be approached in the manner He requires – through His Son, the Messiah, the Savior of sinners, by the blood of Jesus, on the basis of His sacrifice, on the basis of His merits. We must approach God on the basis of the truth as it is found in Christ. Truth is the catalyst for all genuine worship. As our heart is captured by who God is, what He has created, how He works, that His purposes are always good, what He sacrificed for me and you and how He pursues us in love even at this moment, it must move us. It must make us grateful, joyful, reverent, awed, and we reflect that back to Him in worship.

We cannot ascribe true honor to one about whom we know nothing! That is why a systematic exposition of the Word of God is so important. As we experience God in His Word and learn more about Him, we find ever-increasing reason to bow before Him in worship.

Together the words "spirit and truth" mean that worship must have heart and worship must have head. Worship must engage your emotions and worship must engage your thought. Truth without emotion produces cold, dead, theological orthodoxy and a church full of cold hearted people. Emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates unstable people who reject the discipline of doctrine. True worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine.

The essential nature of worship is to offer God adoration from our inner beings in praise, prayer, song, giving and living always based upon His revealed truth. And as we worship Him in spirit and in truth, we will see His character written into our countenances and into our lives. We will delight in Him, He will be our God and we will be His people. The Samaritan woman needed to see this, needed to believe this. And we read:

“The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”” (John 4:25–26, ESV) Now we understand why Jesus said the Temple was obsolete. It is not in a building that

one worships God, but in Him alone. He is the Messiah, the anointed Savior and Lord, chosen by God. You cannot approach God in any other way than the way by which He reveals Himself and He has revealed Himself fully and finally in Jesus. This is why we must know Christ and love Him and hear Him and respond to Him.

The point? Simply this -- the real essence of worship is knowing and being satisfied in Christ, prizing and treasuring Christ and expressing that with the whole of our lives. When we see Jesus for who He truly is, we will savor Him, we will delight in Him as true and beautiful and the more we are satisfied in Him, the more Christ will be glorified in us and the more we will be people who have been crucified to this world, but made truly alive by faith in the Son of God. Oh how we need, everyone of us, to be delivered from the tyranny of our selves. We don't need more self esteem, we need more Christ esteem. When you really understand that Jesus is the Christ you'll be willing to give up all you have to follow him. You will place him above all of your possessions. You will put him above all other people. You will seek to serve him and please him alone.

Beloved this needs to be the ground of our lives. Jesus is the Christ, He is the Messiah of God, the only way to the Father, worthy of exaltation and glory. Nothing matters apart from Him, nothing. And we exist to enjoy making much of Him. Now listen, people are often so tempted to rate the worship service – did it produce certain feelings, how did I like it, etc. It is consumerist mindset and trap in these days. Worship is not something we attend. It is not something that is outwardly manipulated and produced; it must come from within. Worship is not something we do or that others are to do for us, it is who we are! Worshippers of the Living God. It is the defining character of who we are. “For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—” (Philippians 3:3, ESV) “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17, ESV)

He is not some means to an end; He is the end. DA Carson said: “Should we not remind ourselves that worship is a transitive verb? It must have an object, the right object. We do not meet to worship or to experience worship; we aim to worship God. “Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.” This is the heart of the matter. In this area one must not confuse what is central with the by-products. If you seek peace, you will not find it. If you seek Christ, you will find peace. If you seek joy, you will not find it. If you seek Christ, you will find joy. If you seek holiness, you will not find it. If you seek Christ, you will find holiness. If you seek

experiences of worship, you will not find them. If you worship the living God, you will experience something of what is reflected in the Psalms. Worship is a transitive verb, and the most important thing about it is its direct object.” Jesus said, “I am He.” He is the proper object of true worship.

Did this woman become a true worshipper of God? We are never explicitly told that she did, but the evidence certainly points in that direction. “So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”” (John 4:28–29, ESV) And then later we read,

“Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”” (John 4:39–42, ESV)

Although the text does not specifically tell us that the Samaritan woman became a believer, the evidence seems plain. The hour of salvation had come for her. She would willingly and gladly become a true worshiper. She would drink of the Water of Life. The irresistible grace of the Messiah had penetrated her heart. Step by step He had opened her sinful heart and disclosed himself to her, and she responded with saving faith.

What is the state of our heart and life before Jesus? Are you saved person – follow the trail of your heart, your desires, what you value most. Who is your God? Just follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money, and your allegiance. And at the end of that trail you will find a throne, and whoever or whatever is on that throne is what is of highest value to you. In other words, on that throne is what you worship. Sure, not too many of us walk around saying, ‘I worship my stuff; I worship my job; I worship this pleasure; I worship her; I worship my body; I worship me.’ But the trail never lies. We may say that we value this thing or that thing more than any other, but the volume of our actions speaks louder than words. The God you serve will be written upon your life.

How is your worship? Do you worship in spirit? Does your worship of Christ spring from a heart of love, of awe, of gratitude, of joy? Is it marked by glad submission and humility before Jesus? Charles Spurgeon said: "it is far more difficult to worship God in spirit than in form. To patter through a dozen [Hail Marys] or [Lord's Prayers] is so easy, that I can nearly go to sleep over them: to repeat a form of prayer in the morning and evening is a very small matter, and one can be thinking of the shop all the while; to go to church or chapel so many times a week is a cheap duty, and [with it all] one may still be a thief or a hypocrite; but it is hard, very hard, to bring the heart down to humble penitence, and the soul to holy meditation. The last thing that most people will do is to think. The noblest part of our nature is still the least exercised. Humbly to tremble before God, to confess sin before him, to believe him, to love him—this is spiritual worship! Because this is so hard, men say, " No, no, let me crawl on my knees around a shrine!... Let me go every [week] to the steeple house and come out in half an hour, and feel I have done my religion." That is quite easy, but the hard part of religion is the part of spiritual worship."

Do you worship in truth? Are you seeking to know God more and more through His Word, are you determined to worship Him rooted in the truth of who He is?

Worship is to be the main activity of every believer's life. Every facet of your life is to exude worship to the glory of God. God is seeking true worshippers. Has He found one in you?

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