

CrossRoads Baptist Church
May 31, 2006
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John 4: 19-24
Worship: Passion of God for God #5 & 6

“True Praise Proceeds from True Worship, Part I and II”

As we examine this wonderful topic of worship, the words of Jesus concerning worship are essential to a properly understanding.

In the context of the Samaritan woman, Jesus speaks the greatest words about worship to a woman who had five husbands and was living with a man who was not her husband.

Here are two extremes in worship:

1. Samaritans – Spirit without truth

The Samaritans only accepted the first five books of the Bible but yet in their worship they were very lively and enthusiastic. Yet it was without proper information.

2. Jews – Truth without spirit

The Jews accepted the entire Old Testament but their hearts were not married to their minds.

True worship marries spirit and truth.

So what does it mean to worship in spirit? I note that it's the human spirit.

1. It means to worship with your heart.

Jesus has harsh words to say about the Jews when they did not worship from the heart. The accepted external forms of worship will not be accepted if they do not come from a true heart of worship.

Matthew 6:1-8

Matthew 15: 8-9

Does our spirit at times evoke our emotions in worship? Yes. But the main focus of our spirit worship is not to be controlled by our soul or our body. But our soul and our body will be driven and controlled by our spirit in real worship.

There is a vast difference in emotions and emotionalism. I am not scarred of emotions but I am of emotionalism.

2. It means to worship with the Holy Spirit.

The spirit is the real me. When I was born first, I was born of flesh. But my second birth was of the spirit so the spirit is the real me. John 3:6 “That which is spirit is spirit.”

And one of the greatest revelation you will have is John 4: 24 “God is spirit.” That which is God is us.

So when I am filled with the Holy Spirit, then I can worship the God who is Spirit.

How do I know that the Spirit is within me? John 3:8 tells us that we don't know where the wind comes from but we see the effect of it. We can't see the Spirit within someone, but we can see the effects of it in worship by the Spirit moving the person to praise.

3. It means to worship in the freedom of the Spirit.

II Corinthians 3:17 where the Spirit is Lord, there is freedom. Real spirit led worship and praise gives freedom to others as well as receiving freedom from others to worship as the Spirit gives you leadership.