



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC True Worship

SPEAKER

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THEME Digging Deeper: The Practices of the Church

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Jesus redefines true worship as worship in Spirit and in truth, everywhere and all the time (John 4:23). True worship will bring us face to face with the true Christ. Through Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, we see the kind of people that the Father seeks and the kind of worship that pleases God.

TRUE WORSHIP

1) Jesus Meets the Person (John 4:1-9)

On His journey from Judea to Galilee, Jesus passed through Samaria, capital of the northern Kingdom of Israel occupied by foreigners inter-married to local Jews. While other Jews would avoid passing through Samaria as they despised the Samaritans, Jesus deliberately journeyed through Samaria, and even went to the well in Sychar at noon time for a specific purpose – to meet the Samaritan woman with 5 failed marriages, in an adulterous relationship, and rejected by her own people.

Who is the “Samaritan woman” around us?

- Samaritan - People lost to other religions.
- Woman - People of lowly position in society and with no authority over their lives.
- Outcast – People who are ashamed of their past, afraid of condemnation, and isolated by others for their sins.

Against all social and cultural norms, and despite her shameful past and current sin, Jesus seeks out the Samaritan woman and meets her where she is. This is a demonstration of the provident will and abundant grace of the Father. Similarly, Jesus will seek you and meet you right where you are, and He will not reject you.

2) Jesus Makes the Promise (John 4:10-18)

Jesus offers the Samaritan woman living water (v10) – a running supply of God's word and His everlasting goodness, and promises that it will quench her spiritual thirst and lead her to eternal life (v14).

What does this living water offer?

- Spiritual renewal and refreshment (John 7:38)
- Life for your soul (Isaiah 55:1-3)
- Restored relationship with God (Ezekiel 36:25-28)

Jesus offers the same infinite and everlasting source of living water to all who are thirsty today. He wants us to thirst for Him and His kingdom above all else, and to those who do so, He promises a wellspring of life-giving refreshing water that comes up from within, flowing into us and to the people around us.

3) Jesus Delivers on the Promise (John 4:19-26)

Jesus told the woman that true worship is not bounded by time or space, but is connected to God in spirit (v21 – 23). He chooses to reveal His true identity as the promised Messiah (v26) to her - a Samaritan woman and outcast who finds herself face to face with the living Christ.

Jesus enables and delivers a new way of worship beyond boundaries through Himself by paying the price for our sins on the cross once and for all, to allow us to worship God in Spirit and in truth. He is the perfect temple for God.

The true worship that pleases God is when we recognise His presence with us, proclaim His truth to the world around us, and declare His praise in our words, deeds, actions and thought.

CONCLUSION

In the epilogue of the story (John 4:27-42), the woman left her water jar at the well and went back to town amongst all the people she shunned (v28) to tell them about Jesus (v29). Many people went to see Jesus (v30) and believed because of her testimony (v39).

Having her spiritual thirst quenched, the water jar was no longer needed to fulfil her physical thirst because her spirit had come alive. Having met the Messiah face to face, her fear and shame were taken away and replaced by wonder and amazement. True worship will transform us from the inside.

When we declare God's presence, God's truth and God's praises in every space and time, people would want to know what and why we believe, and they would come and see for themselves Jesus, the Saviour of the world. True worship will change the world.

QUESTIONS

1. Jesus intentionally sought out the Samaritan woman at the well, regardless of her circumstances, differences and sins. Who is the “Samaritan woman” in your life that you have been prompted to reach out?

2. Reflect on your current priorities in life. What have you been thirsting after? How can you tap on the wellspring of life-giving refreshing water that comes up from within, flowing into us and to the people around us.

3. Every place and every time can be used for worship. How can you worship God in Spirit and in truth as you go through daily activities?