

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Faithful in Worship

SERMON REFERENCE: John 4:3-24

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1830

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) A factor of faithfulness if we would be faithful to the Lord Jesus and to His church is worship.
- b) To learn to worship is our greatest need.
 - i) To worship in spirit and in truth is the ultimate privilege.
 - ii) To worship God is the supreme duty of any child of God.
- c) We are invited, we are commanded, we are encouraged, and we are empowered to worship Him.
 - i) Going to Heaven is not the bottom line.
 - (1) We go to Heaven to worship Him.
 - ii) Being saved is not the bottom line.
 - (1) We are saved so that we can worship Him.
- d) We become like what we worship.
 - i) Whatever a person worships conforms that person.
 - ii) The Bible speaks of those who worship idols:
 - (1) Psalm 115:4-8
 - (2) First, a man molds the idol, and then the idol molds the man.
 - iii) If we worship idols, then we'll become like the idol that we worship.
 - iv) If we worship the Lord, then we're changed from glory to glory to the same image.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - v) When you put a poker in the fire and leave it there long enough, before long the fire is in the poker.
 - (1) When we immerse ourselves in the presence of God, before long the presence of God is in us.
 - (2) True worship will make us more like the one we worship.
- e) The woman of Samaria learned about true worship.
 - i) John 4:3-24
 - (1) Jesus' need to go through Samaria was not a geographical need.
 - (a) It would have been much simpler for Him to go another route.
 - (2) He needed to go through Samaria because He had a spiritual reason for going.
- f) The problem with the modern church today is that we have forgotten how to worship.
 - i) There are those today who say that in order to build a great church, you have to talk to the people about their needs and help them get their needs met.
 - (1) When they talk about needs, they're referring to their emotional, psychological and physical needs.
 - ii) Many of our worship services across America have left theology and gone to me-ology.
 - (1) It's man-centered rather than God-centered.
 - (2) Rather than worshipping God, we turn our eyes inward and upon ourselves.

- iii) Mark 8:35
 - (1) If you want to be utterly miserable, then turn your life inward.
 - (2) If you want to be filled with joy, then turn your life upward.
 - (a) Look into the face of God, and learn to worship.
- g) The Samaritan woman was miserable.
 - i) She had never learned to worship.
 - ii) She was self-centered.
 - iii) She had been blinded by Satan.
 - (1) She was a slave to sin.
 - (2) She had sought satisfaction in the things of this world.
 - (3) She had gone from one husband to another and then began to live a life of immorality.
 - (4) She thought that she could find joy in these things, but it had all turned to dust.
 - iv) Not only had she been blinded by Satan, but she had been broken by sorrow.
 - (1) Life has its thrills but no real joys apart from the Lord Jesus.
 - (a) Sin, at first, is attractive and alluring.
 - (i) Proverbs 20:17
 - v) She was bound by sin.
 - (1) She was a religious woman, and she wanted to talk religion.
 - (2) Religion, though, had never helped her.
 - (a) She had some ideas, but they were not from God.
 - (3) She had a form of godliness, but there was no power in it.
 - (a) This is why the Lord Jesus taught her about worship.
 - h) God did not make us primarily to serve Him but to worship Him, to love Him, to know Him, to enjoy Him, and for Him to enjoy us.
 - i) God created us for Himself to enjoy Him and for Him to enjoy us.
 - ii) Until we do that, we will never know fulfillment.
 - (1) Take a fish out of the sea and put him in a tree, he's an unhappy fish.
 - (2) Take a bird out of the air and put him in the water, and he's an unhappy bird.
 - (3) Take a person who is made for God and immerse him in the things of this world apart from God, and he will have no fulfillment.
 - (4) Acts 17:28
 - iii) Until we learn to worship, we'll be like a fish out of water.

2) WE MUST LEARN THE MEANING OF TRUE WORSHIP (JOHN 4:22)

 - a) John 4:22
 - i) This woman did not know the meaning of worship.
 - b) Many people today don't understand the meaning of worship.
 - c) Matthew 15:9
 - i) There is such a thing as vain worship.
 - (1) Those who worship idols worship vainly.

- (a) Exodus 34:14
 - (b) Isaiah 48:11
 - (i) When you worship some New Age idol, or some god of superstition, or some god of substance or success, or even yourself, then you provoke the Lord to jealousy.
 - (2) There is insincere worship.
 - (a) Matthew 15:8
 - (b) We sing, “All to Jesus, I surrender,” and then we don’t even make it back to prayer meeting at church.
 - (c) Half-hearted worship is an insult to Almighty God.
 - (3) There is iniquitous worship.
 - (a) If we go to church to worship God or get on our knees at home, but there is sin in our heart, it makes God angry.
 - (b) Amos 5:21-24
 - (i) God will not hear us when we worship with sin in our heart.
 - (ii) He that offers his prayer, even his prayer will be an abomination.
 - (c) To worship God with an unclean heart is an abomination to Him.
 - (d) Matthew 5:23-24
 - (i) If we give offerings but have hatred in our hearts or sins that have not been made right, then it is vain worship.
 - 1. It is an insult to Almighty God.
 - (ii) God says to leave the money, and go make it right with your brother.
 - 1. God doesn’t say to take the money with you.
 - 2. He says that He won’t receive it, and you can’t keep it.
 - a. It still belongs to God.
- d) Worship is the adoring, contemplation of God revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) Worship is all that we are, responding to all that God is.
 - (1) All that we are: body, soul and spirit.
 - (a) Mind, emotion and will.
 - ii) Our English word “worship” comes from the old word “worth ship”.
 - (1) We worship according to the worth that we place on God.
 - (2) We worship what we feel is worthy or of worth.
 - iii) Revelation 5:12
 - iv) How, when, and the way a person worships says what they think of God.
 - (1) Our worship life is a barometer of how much we love God and what we think of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - v) We sometimes confuse worship with prayer and even praise.
 - (1) They are elements of worship, but they’re not the bottom line of worship.
 - (2) It is wonderful to petition God in prayer with a request and ask Him to help us.
 - (3) It’s good to thank Him for what He has done.

- (4) But how many times have we simply come to God to just pour out our hearts in love to Him?
(a) That is true worship.
- 3) WE MUST PRACTICE THE TRUE METHOD OF WORSHIP (JOHN 4:21-23)
- a) John 4:21-23
- i) We worship God in spirit and in truth.
- b) The Samaritan woman wants to have a theological argument because Jesus is getting very close to her deepest need.
- i) She is trying to change the subject.
- (1) Many people will do this when we try to witness to them.
(2) They would rather argue religion than look God in the face.
- ii) She wants to debate where the true place to worship is.
- (1) The Jews worshipped at Jerusalem on Mt. Zion and Mt. Moriah.
(2) The Samaritans worshipped in Samaria.
- (a) The Samaritans rejected all of the Bible, except for the first five books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy).
- (i) Therefore, they were limited in their knowledge.
(ii) They worshipped what they knew not.
- (b) Their worship was primarily emotional.
- (3) The Jews, on the other hand, were led primarily by the Pharisees.
- (a) They had all of the Bible and all of the prophets.
(b) They had all of the truth, but they didn't have the spirit.
- (i) The Samaritans had spirited worship, but they didn't have the truth.
- iii) John 4:21, 24
- (1) The place of worship will be the heart.
- c) There are three things that must be true in order for us to have the true method of worship:
- i) We must be regenerated by the Father.
- (1) We are to worship the Father.
(a) He is not our Father unless we're born again.
(2) The unsaved are of their father, the devil.
(a) John 8:44
(3) To worship the Father, you must make certain that you've been born into the Father's family.
(a) You cannot worship God whom you don't know.
(b) Acts 17:23
(4) Have you been saved? Have you been born again?
(a) John 14:6
(5) Does the Spirit of God in you cry out, "Abba, Father?"
(a) The Holy Spirit can only help you to worship God when God is your Father.
- ii) We must be activated by the Spirit.

- (1) Born from above, and then you worship from within.
 - (a) The Holy Spirit of God comes into you.
 - (2) Jesus teaches that true worship is Spirit-filled worship.
 - (a) Ephesians 5:18-19
 - (3) We cannot worship God apart from being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - (a) If you're not saved, then you cannot worship.
 - (b) If you're not Spirit-filled, you will not worship.
 - (i) If you have no desire to worship or worship is boring and tedious to you, then you're either not saved or not Spirit-filled.
 - (4) We become Spirit-filled by agreeing with the Spirit as to the desire and purpose of the Spirit.
 - (a) The desire and purpose of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (b) When our one goal and aim is to glorify Jesus above everything else, then the Holy Spirit of God that is in us will join us, and praise will come up out of us.
- iii) We must be regulated by the Word.
- (1) All true worship is linked with the study of the Word of God.
 - (2) Psalm 145:18
 - (a) "In truth."
 - (3) Psalm 47:7
 - (4) To worship God in Spirit without truth will make you a fanatic.
 - (5) To worship God in truth without the Spirit will make you a Pharisee.
 - (6) If you worship God in Spirit and in truth, then you will have one of the grandest experiences you've ever had.
- 4) THE MOTIVE OF TRUE WORSHIP (JOHN 4:23)
- a) John 4:23
 - i) God seeks worshippers.
 - b) We don't go to church primarily for what we can get, but for what we can give.
 - i) We don't go to church to worship but to bring our worship.
 - (1) We have worshipped all through the week, and then we come corporately to worship together.
 - c) A problem in many churches is that they view worship as a sort of spectator sport.
 - i) Like somehow, it's a performance, and those in the congregation are the critics.
 - d) We're to come together gloriously united, praising the Lord Jesus Christ and giving Him worship, praise and glory.
 - e) There has never been a boring worship service.
 - i) If you've ever been in a boring service, then it wasn't a worship service.
 - ii) What could be more thrilling and energizing than to come together to worship the great God of eternity and lift our hearts to Him in praise?

- iii) There isn't anything much more tragic in the spiritual world than for people to go to church to drink coffee, slap each other on the back, fellowship, laugh, sing, and fail to remember Jesus and give Him glory.
- f) God's great heart desires worship.
 - i) He is not some sort of an egotist that we have to praise Him.
 - ii) When we worship God, we enjoy God; and He enjoys us.
- g) The Bible teaches corporate as well as individual worship.
 - i) Hebrews 10:25
 - ii) When we go to church, we are saying two things to everyone who sees us:
 - (1) God is important to me.
 - (2) My brothers and sisters are important to me.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) When we worship, it shows the worth that we place upon our Lord.
- b) You cannot worship the Father in spirit and in truth until He becomes your Father.
 - i) He becomes your Father when you're born into His family by receiving Jesus into your heart and life.
- c) If you're not saved and you want to be saved, then pray to Him today and ask Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16