



# Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## The Simplicity and Scope of True Worship

Bible Reading: John 4:13-26

[Watch LIVESTREAM at 10am](#)

### I. The Issue of Worship

- A. In Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well, he offers her the "living water" which will spring up into eternal life. She desires and asks for this water.
- B. The woman raises the issue of worship once she considers Jesus a prophet
- C. Jesus does not focus on her past or her morality but engages with her in this discussion.
- D. The woman is knowledgeable regarding the divisions of Jews and Samaritans and their different understanding of the place of worship.
- E. Jesus engages with her in a deeper conversation

### II. Jesus Redefines Worship

- A. A change in era, in – 4:21, 23
  - 1. God did ordain it, the Jews had it right
  - 2. But things are now changing
- B. Not about a place
  - 1. A place implies rituals and formula
  - 2. A place implies some places are better than others
- C. But About a Person – God who is Spirit
  - 1. The Father
  - 2. Implies a relationship has been established
    - a. The worshiper has been born of the Spirit
    - b. The worshiper has been given the gift of God – the Spirit
    - c. The worshiper has drunk of the "living water."
  - 3. The Father seeks true worshipers

- a. Why does Jesus go to Samaria?
- b. The Father is seeking true worshipers.
- c. Jesus doing the Father's will and work – that is motivation for whatever Jesus does.

### III. What is Worship?

- A. The meaning of the words:
  1. Hebrew: *shachad* – to bow (*politely or respectfully*), to prostrate oneself
  2. Greek: *proskynein* – to bow, to respect, to reverence
- B. An attitude more than a feeling
  1. An attitude of lowliness with deep respect
  2. Humbling e.g. Luke 18:10-14 – the Pharisee versus the tax collector coming to pray
  3. No confidence in the flesh – Phil. 3:3
  4. A heart of gratitude with reverence and awe – Heb. 12:28-29
  5. A heart focused on God – Mark 7:6-7
  6. Putting God first – Matt. 22:37
- C. An action – presenting our bodies, a sacrifice – Rom. 12:1
- D. Not an emotion
- E. Not requiring an atmosphere
- F. With others and alone

### IV. Examples of Worship

- A. Where people are gathered – Lydia – Acts 16:13-14
- B. In times of persecution – Paul and Silas in prison – Acts 16:23-25
- C. In times of weakness – Jacob at his death – Heb. 11:21
- D. In times of loss – Job losses all his children – Job 1: 18-21