

Series: John

Title: Is not This The Christ?

Text: John 8:16-26

Please take your Bibles and turn with me to the Gospel of John chapter 4. I want to continue our study of this conversation that Jesus is having with this Samaritan woman. John chapter 4 beginning with Vs. 16. There are notes in your bulletin. I invite you to follow along with me as we study God's Word together. Would you please stand for the reading of God's Word?

(Read John 4:16-26)

(Prayer)

Now, This is some conversation that Jesus is having with this Samaritan Woman. She is talking with Jesus about living water. And she knew that the Messiah, when he came, would bring living water or everlasting life. And she had full confidence that when the Messiah came he would tell all things. So, she wanted what Jesus offered. And the question she asks in Vs. 15 is powerful: "So, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw."

At this point Jesus began to look deeply into this woman's life. Something that all of us need to be remained off, no matter how much you need everlasting life and how much you want to be what God wants you to be, ^{for} how much ^{you} might desire to be a Bible-believing Christian. YET, until you face your sin, you will never know the effects and the importance of the death of Christ in your behalf; and you will never really trust Jesus for the forgiveness that He offers you. Do you

understand? God always convicts us of our sin. We always must see our need before we come to really know Christ by personal experience.

And this is true about this Samaritan woman. So, he begins to look deeply into this woman's life.

(3) Now, beginning with Vs. 16, we see the third major point in our study of this story. And that is the insight of Jesus into her personal problem.

Jesus, of course, knowing all things, says to her: "Go, call your husband, and come here." A couple of things concerning her problem.

(1D) Number one, Jesus gives this woman a test. A test to draw out of her, her real problem. And what was standing in the way between her and the living water, which is everlasting life.

It hits me that Jesus would say, "Go call your husband", even though He knew that this man she was living with ^{was} ~~as~~ not her husband. And that she had had five previous husbands.

So, His remark "GO" is the arrow of conviction, so to speak. He is looking into her heart for the problem in her life.

And yet, the thing that really thrilled me ^{is} ~~is~~ that in the ^J ~~the~~ same statement he said, "Don't forget to come back." Isn't that beautiful?

You see, he just didn't jump on her and call her a sinner and tell her to face that sin. No way, He said, "Don't forget to come back." 'GO'..BUT YET..COME. Isn't that wonderful? Go, call your husband. But, come back so that we continue our conversation.

(2D) Then in vs. 17, we learn that she had to face the truth. Like every one of us. Nobody likes to face his or her sin. When you are exposed in front of somebody else, I mean, that is tough. And nobody wants to do that. But, she had to face the truth.

“And the woman answered and said, I have no husband.” Thinking to cover over her sin quickly.

So, Jesus said to her, “You have spoken the truth. You have no husband. Because the fellow that you are living with right now, isn’t your husband. And you have had five in the past.

Her personal life is being completely exposed. And in spite of her religious convictions, which she seems to have, she still had deep personal moral problems in her life. You see, there is no guarantee that because; you walk into this church on a regular bases, or appear to be religious wherever you are, that you will then escape or avoid deep moral problems. Actually everyone of us in the things that we face in our life, there will be one of three problems that will really affect our happiness in our total life. One of three things.

(1A) The first is moral impurity in either thought or deed. People might tell you that there are a 100 things going on that are wrong in their life. But down deep there might be the root of moral impurity that is causing all these things that we see as symptoms.

(2A) The second is financial gain. People believe that if they acquire enough things- material things - they will be happy. And their desire to possess things becomes a root of a whole host of other problems.

(3A) And the third one is personal pride...ambitions...ego...self/....as it controls the life.

One of ^{these} three will cause the problems in your life and bring unhappiness to you. Personal pride, financial gain, or moral impurity. And they will develop a host of other problems.

(2B) Now, there are two factors in this woman's moral problem.

(1A) One was, her frequent divorces. This simply indicates marital unhappiness, ^{in her} inability to live with another person over a sustained period of time. Now, you might say after one divorce, "man you should have seen the guy I was living with?" "There is no question that I could never have stayed with him." But, you know, after five times, folks, you have got to start looking at yourself....Right?....

Isn't it interesting that no matter whether it is with our partner in business or our partner in marriage, or neighbors, or working with people on the job, or friends at school, but isn't it interesting how often we point to that which is outside of us as being the "thing" that is the problem as to why we are unhappy?

Why the problem is inside of us. It isn't outside of us.

So, you are having trouble at working getting along with people. You could say, "Boy, if you knew the people that I had to work with."

Listen, it is still inside of us. All of our unrest, dissatisfaction, unhappiness, is inside of us. It has nothing to do with the external. Why, a person can have the joyful heart, and peace, and satisfaction in the midst of what seems to be an uncontrollable storm on the outside.

Folks, it is inside of us. It is inside of us, as we face our problems. It is not the other people. So, this lady is indicating by her frequent divorces that she is basically unhappy. She cannot live with another person and be exposed for what she is. And that is always a problem in everyone of us, if we are not willing to face our sin.

(2) The second thing that was a part of her moral problem was her adultery.

The man that she was living with was not her husband. Now, what does that tell you about a person? It tells you this: that she was trying or attempting to satisfy her unhappiness and her unfulfilled desires.

I talked with a young man once, not too young, you know, roughly around 60...And this man had a problem in his life. He had several divorces. And at present he was living with another woman. And he said, "You know, I don't think there is a woman anywhere who can fulfill my desires."...(NA)

Oh, friends, that is so common. Let me tell you something. When the problem is inside of you, that is exactly right....Untill a person gets straightened out in his heart, inside, he will never know what it means to be completely satisfied. Whether it is in marriage or in the church or in business or in his family or whatever....

So, this woman evidenced by these two remarks a life of unhappiness, dissatisfaction and restlessness. And I am sure that I am talking to people right now who are facing the same problem. And I want to say to you that Jesus dealt with this woman in such love that I am amazed. We are so quick to judge and be judgmental. To put people down who are already deep in trouble. Dear friends, the message of the Gospel is to heal the broken hearted. To bind up the wounds. Not, to make them worse...And our Lord Jesus dealt with this woman in love and tenderness..

So, the ~~third~~ thing that I want you to notice is that this woman did what so many people try to do. She tried to avoid the issue by bringing up her ^{her sin} religion.

Have you ever talked to people who do that?....Look in the mirror.... Whenever our sins start to come out and people start to notice them, do you know what we do?...We turn to our goodness...The things that we are doing that are good. After all, look at all the good things that I am doing. How could you whole this one sin against me."

~~The~~ woman did the same thing. Vs 19 .."Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet."...A little complement thrown in the direction of Jesus.

But then Vs 20.."Our fathers worshiped in this mountain." By the way, they were Jesus' fathers also. Abraham, Issac, and Jacob...But you must get the feeling of what she is saying....Samaritans....

"Our fathers worshiped in this mountain"....

Now, she was at Jacob's well. On one side was Mt. Kar'a'son where all the blessings were pronounced in the O.T. On the other side was Mt. E'ble where all the cruses. Even in this day, the Samaritans sacrifice a lamb at passover on Mt. Kar'a'son.

And so she is standing there looking at Jesus and she points to this mountain. Listen, Jesus, our Fathers worshiped in this mountain."

Now, so that you will understand, let me put it in modern words...

"Listen, Jesus, we have our own church.".....

Have you ever heard that? You are sharing the gospel with someone and all of a sudden a little conviction comes and they say, "Well, we have our own denomination, our own church.".....That is nice...But you are still a sinner..

Or, I am not as bad as some people....OH! How bad are you?...You see.. We try to avoid the issue. We don't want to deal with the problems. But if we want living water, if we want to really get ~~straight~~ ^{straight} with God, we have got to face the truth about ourselves.

That woman didn't want to face the truth. She wanted to avoid the issue by bring up her religion. And we often do the same. We hate to face our sins.

Do you know what stricks me about Jesus at this point? He did exactly what I usually don't do....Do you know what I have been programed to do? When somebody brings something up like this, I have been programed to try to avoid it by saying "Well , that is not the point. After all who cares about

brand names. What we need to do is get back to Jesus...RIGHT?...AH, WRONG...

Now, Jesus met that woman right where she was. And he handled that issue. And that hit a note in my life about love and tenderness *(and the methods Jesus)*

"O.K..you want to talk about worship for a moment? Alright, I will talk about it." Jesus could have easily said, "Listen, woman, where we worship is not the issue. The issue is the man you are living with. He is not your husband *(you are living in sin)* You have to turn to the Lord."...

But, he didn't. He took it right where she was and dealt with it. And that is beautiful. The method of Jesus ~~is~~ witnessing is love and tenderness.

How () In Vs 21, notice, the instructions of Jesus about worship. Friends, I don't know of a text that is as important to both the person considering Christ, and believers who already know him. This text deals with issues that are very important to our understanding *about worship*

How (IF) The first thing that I notice in Vs 21 is that Christ gave her a prediction of the future. And this prediction was based upon his own creditability. Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me." *you see* Everything He said was based upon his own creditability.

Do you know that the basic reason why christians believe that the Bible is God's Word is not because archology supports it, not because history proves it's truthfulness, not because manascribes evidence is a miracle of perservati beyond all belief, not because of fulfilled prophecy that would hold up in any court of law in any land, OH, NO..the basic reason why I believe the Bible is the Word of God is because Jesus said it was.....He is either lieing or telling the truth. If he is lieing, then let's be done with Him. He is a deceiver. But, it is based upon the truthfulness and the testimony of Jesus who said that not one jot or one tital shall pass away until all these things shall be fulfilled. He constantly said that this is MY WORD. BELIEVE IT... When Jesus spoke He ask people to believe Him.

In Vs 21 Jesus said, "Believe me, the hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father."

So, here is a prediction of the future.

about worship?

Now, what is Jesus actually teaching here In Vs 21, it is clear that He is indicating that these places are not important. They are not significant. The hour is coming when we will not have to worship this way anymore.

And the point is that worship will no longer be sacrifices, and temples, and places. But, the temple will now move to the believers body. Our body has become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

God has always had his place of worship. Tabernacles..Temples..That is why the Jews when they returned from the Babylonian captivity had to build a temple, a place where they could worship God through the many sacrifices. All beautiful types looking forward to Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

you see the early Jewish church had a problem

And that is why the book of Hebrews was written. ~~Because the Temple was not destroyed by the Romans until 70 A.D. And when the many Jews who came to know christ, in those early days of the church, when they got saved they had a problem because the Temple was still there, the sacrifices were still going on, the O.T. system was there, now what are we suppose to do? And that is why Hebrews ~~was written~~ ^{was written} to say that all these things were shadows and types pointing to Jesus.~~

and what

And the point is that the O.T. system of worship will not be anymore. That Jesus will be priest, sacrifice, temple, everything. The entire economy of the O.T. is all wiped up in Jesus. He is the fulfillment of it all.

So, we have this prediction of the future. You will not have to worship in this mountain or even in Jerusalem.

(2nd) Now, the second thing that I notice about this instruction to worship is the problem of knowledge. All of us face this at one time or another..

Jesus said to this woman in Vs 22, "You worship that which you do not know.".. Isn't it amazing how people can go through the motions and the forms and the rituals and act as though they are worshipping God? And yet, it is just forms and rituals. And they don't understand what they are doing, or the reality of it..We have our testaments, our crosses, our candles, our stain glass windows, our communion table, anything we can do to help us to get to God. OH, Listen...Jesus, right here, in one moment of time is throwing all of that out the window....

If you worship God, you worship him inside. ^{we} People ~~often~~ call ^{this} services ~~we have as~~ WORSHIP SERVICES. As though we could some how program worship. ^{Dear Friend} Folks, I definitely believe that that ^{attitude} is an abomination in the sight of God. You must worship him in your heart...

You cannot program worship. No order of service will do that. No ritual, no literacy, no outwards forms or certain things cause a moving of the Spirit. ^{How} In fact the Bible warns in 2 Timothy 3:5 that in the last days they will have a form, which is the word for ritual, a form of godliness but denieing the power there of... I meet people all the time who say they believe in God, who really don't. If we believed in a personal God, it would change our life. ^{Many people} become practical atheist. They believe in God like they believe in Mother, apple pie, and the flag in America. Everybody does. And so you accept the fact that everybody believes in God. And yet, ^{we} you live as though He isn't around. And ^{our} your life sytle proves that ^{we} you are not interested in Him...

Do you believe in a persoanal God? Many people worship that which they don't evern know. They don't even understand. They just go through motions hoping for a spiritual experience of some kind. ^{Will The Service inspire me? IT becomes self-centered}

Jesus said, we know what we worship. For salvation is from the Jews. Now, that wasn't a put down on the Samaritans and or the importance of the Gentiles. It is a statement of fact.

God said that because Israel was little and not very important among the nations of the world, that is why I choose you. If you think that God choose the Jews because they are worth more than the Gentiles, you do not have a Bible understanding. The Bible says that God choose the Jews because they were a small nation. He choose to ~~prize~~ prosper them so that the whole wrold will take notice and say, "Why did God do that for them/"...WHY?...Just because he loves...that is all....

And through that little nation he brought the Messiah, who is the salvator of the world. Jesus said, that salvation comes out-off the Jews. And that is true.

OK This leads us to
 (3 P) Now, the third thing that I notice about this instruction to worship
the true method of worship. How should we worship God. Vs 23 and 24 are two
 very important verses. The method of worship. *Two Things here.*

Take your Bibles and turn to Revelation chapter 4:11. Rev. 4:11..
 Keep your Bibles handy. We are going to look at a few verses. The Bible is
 saying that the Father is seeking people who will worship Him. He is looking
 for them. WHY?

Revelation chapter 4, we have a picture of the saints, the believers in
 heaven. And they are learning to praise the Lord. Revelation 4:11 says,
 "Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and
 power; for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they
 existed, and were created."

This verse simply tells us this: that God is pure, holy, selfish.
 Many times we look at the word "self" in terms of all the sin that is
 involved. Pure selfishness...God has...He created everything for himself.
 He created you for himself. Because He wanted you. And he has a claim to every
 one of us in this room. He made you. He designed you. WHY? For his own pleasure.

Paul wrote in Romans 9 that the clay cannot say to the potter, why have
 you made me like this? A part of what God wants out of you and me is to
 worship him because he has made us as He has. And that we are designed and
 programmed to worship Him. That inside of us is a built in temple to worship
 God and to honor Him and to know Him. The father is seeking people to worship
 Him. And that is why He designed us in order to bring praise and honor and
 glory to himself.

Now, will you take your Bibles and turn back to John 4 for a moment.
 Keep your finger in the book of Revelations. We will come back in a moment.
 But, turn back to John 4. Jesus said in Vs 23.."that such people the Father
 seeks to be his worshipers." The statement that preceded this about the true
 worshipers are those who worship the Father in spirit and in truth,.. And the
 explanation is in Vs 24 because God is spirit. Therefore you must worship
 Him in spirit and in truth

The Word

(16) First of all, let me ask you, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF WORSHIP?... The word literally means "TO KISS TOWARDS SOMETHING"...In other words, worship is an act of intimate affection or devotion, a kiss towards something. And that something is, ~~according to the left~~ *bed*

This word, by the way, is only used of worship of God the Father and Jesus Christ. Never the Holy Spirit. It is used in Revelation 13:4 and other passages in Revelation of unbelieving men in a future judgement period on the world called the tribulation. Men who will worship Satan and the anti-christ.

And in Acts 7, Stephen in his great sermon to the Jews referring to the O.T. reminded them that at one time their adultery was so bad that they worshipped idols. They kissed idols and gave affection to them which belonged only to God. Unbelieving people in the tribulation will have just affection and devotion and love for Satan and the coming world ruler, the Anti-christ, ~~that~~ *and* they will worship Him, ~~the same way~~. Counterfeit worship.

But, outside of those few examples the word "worship" is only used of God the Father and Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, we are not to worship any other created thing. Only God.

we read

Now, would you turn back to *Now in* the book of Revelation chapter 22 verse 8: "and I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship." (There is our word, to kiss towards an object).. "I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. And he said to me, do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book: WORSHIP GOD."

The only one you are to worship is God...

and Now, will you turn, please to Matthew chapter 4. In Matthew 4, the devil has approached Christ seeking to tempt him in the days of his flesh. And tempting Him to do things against what his divine nature knew could never be done...

The devil gave him a test in every area. ~~Christ~~ ^{Jesus} was tested in all points like we are, yet without sin.

In Mtt 4 verse 9, the Devil had taken him to a high mountain to show him all the kingdoms of the world. And in Vs 9 the Davil says this to ~~him~~ ^{Jesus}.

"all these things will I give you, if you fall down and worship me."

And ~~the~~ ^{the} Devil used this word "worship." A word that is to be used only of the Father and of Jesus.

"If you fall down and worship me." Vs 10, "Then Jesus said to him, 'Begone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."

You only worship THE LORD, God."

Now, turn to the book of Hebrews chapter 1. Hebrews chapter 1 verse 4.. Here, Paul is speaking of Jesuse.....(Read 4-6)

Now, we noticed from Revelation 22 that John who tried to worship an angel, the angel said "NO!" "You are to only worship God."

Then Jesus said to Satan, "You are to worship the Lord, God!"

Then I notice in Hebrews 1 that the Lord God instructed all the angels to wroship, same word, the SON!. The first-begotten into the world. They are to worship Jesus.

There is only one conclusion. And that is that Jesus is God. We are to worship God.

Now Understanding that, ~~let's come back to John 4~~. I want to put all of this together in your minds. Because many people don't get the ~~concept~~ ^{concept} here and miss the point that Jesus is saying here in John 4

The woman is concerned about worship and religious things like..do we worship at ~~the Mountain~~ ^{the Mountain} or in the temple in Jersuaalem?

Jesus ~~told~~ ^{TOLD} her that we are not going to do that anymore. Salvation is from the Jews. He pointed her attention to the Messiah. She got the point because she says so in Vs 25. She understood that. And Jesus said ["] that the true worshippers ^{v25} will worship God in Spirit and in truth. And that the Father is seeking such to worship him. You have to worship that way/.

^{OK}
 (2G) ~~Then~~ secondly, what is the meaning of the phrase "TO WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH?".....The average person who reads ~~this~~ passage, intrebrates it this way: "What Jesus is saying is that the word "SPIRIT" is referring to the "HOLY SPIRIT." And the word "TRUTH" is referring to "THE WORD OF GOD." Therefore, you must worship in the Holy Spirit and in the Word of God.

Now, I believe that is true. But, that is not what Jesus is saying here in these verses. He is not referring to THE HOLY SPIRIT. But, He is saying, "WORSHIP IN THE QUALITY OF, OR THE REALM OF, OR THE SPHERE OF THE SPIRIT." ^{Not H.S. But Spirit} And He is saying "WORSHIP IN THE REALM OF TRUTH. Not, "THE TRUTH". meaning: THE WORD OF GOD. But, just in "TRUTH." WHAT IS THE POINT?

The word "IN SPIRIT" is always used in contrast to "FLESH." It always refers to the inward in contrast to the outward.

In other words, Jesus is saying "if you worship God, it cannot be with outward forms and rituals and business. It must be in the heart. In your Spirit."

So, the application is very clear. If we are believers and doing the right thing in our life, are we worshipping God by the things we do?.... OR, are we worshipping God on the inside, in our hearts, inwardly?

The word "worship" means "to kiss towards God." It is absolute devotion and affection to God, and Him alone..... Explain our Service

Now, the word "TRUTH" would then be in contrast to a "SHADOW OR TYPE". His point to the woman would be that the entire O.T. system is contrasted with "HIS TRUTH". The truth as it is in Jesus. All of that system of worship pointed to the truth which is JESUS. ^{So} If you worship God, friends, you must worship Him inside, in your Spirit; and you must worship Him in truth. In the complete fulfillment of all the O.T. system of worship which is simply stated...JESUS HIMSELF.

That is why I had to show you that according to the Bible Jesus is to be worshiped...

And that the Father instructed his created beings, both angels and men, to worship his son Jesus.

You see, if you have substituted anything, I don't care if it is ~~by~~ busyness for him, or service for him, anything, you are not worshipping in your heart.

And God really spoke to my heart about this. How easy to slip away. How easy it slips away from us.

~~I shall never forget the time Shirley and I decided to go into Bakersfield to go to a show. And during that trip into Bakersfield, all the doubts of the enemy suddenly came over me. My calling into ministry. It is not real. It is all make believe. Jesus is not real. It is all a part of my imagination... etc~~
~~The other day, Sunday of July, after the church picnic, Shirley and~~

I decide to go into Bakersfield to go to a show. And during that trip into Bakersfield, all the doubts of the enemy suddenly came over me. My calling into ministry. It is not real. It is all make believe. Jesus is not real. It is all a part of my imagination... etc

But once again in that moment though the words of my wife, God brought his Word to me. One verse after another. And reminded me again of the personal presence of Christ. That He ~~is~~ real...that he lives...that he died and rose again...That he calls men into ministry...

And God again showed me that worship was in the heart.....And I think that whole experience was Jesus simple way of saying, "Don't forget me! Don't you ~~go out~~ ^{ever} and preach on that text on worship and forget Jesus.

That is the whole point of this passage. How do I know that?

GE Well, Look at
~~I conclude with~~ Vs 25 and 26, ^{ad} look at the way that we have the Messiah identified. The identification of the Messiah. Just two things here.

(1) In Vs 25 the woman said, after hearing this about worship, she said, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ): when that one comes He will declare all things to us."

So, the first thing that I notice is her confidence. That the Messiah is coming and that he is the fulfilment of the O.T. system of worship.

Finds
(2) Can you imagine the thrill that came over her?...Oh, wouldn't you have like to be there to hear Jesus say this. To hear his confession as recorded here in Vs 26..."I WHO SPEAK TO YOU AM HE."

All this conversation about the living water, about eternal life,...

~~You took her on the hook.~~ The woman wanted this water. She didn't want to thirst again. I want this water...O.K., but what about your husband, what about the sins in your life?...

Well,,ah,,I have another religion. Over here in this mountain we worship. Jesus said, well, wait a minute. The hour is coming and it is already here when we willn't have to worship here or there because you know, we have to worship like the Father wants us to. And that is in spirit and in truth. Not in outward circumony. But in the truth of all of that which the O.T. system represented. Whether in ^{Samaritan} Samary or in Jerusalem. It is all pointing to the Messiah.

And she said, well, listen, I know that the messiah is coming. And when he comes he will tell us all things. And I understand that.

(2F) And then to hear Jesus say, "I AM HE"..... Wow!

No wonder she run to tell those men in the city who knew all about her. They came out to see Jesus. That is why she said in Vs 29 "IS NOT THIS THE CHRIST?....."

Can you say that this morrowing?....The Lord is my shedpheard, I shall not want....Is Jesus your God?....Have you confessed your sin and ask Jesus into your life. Are you worshipping Him in Spirit and in Truth?.....

Let's close in prayer

Out all... King
#66 -