

## “Worship” John 4:21-26

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.” John 4:21–26 (NKJV)

**Προσκυνέω** *proskyneō* to bow down, as in bowing before someone or something WHOM you are acknowledging to be superior to yourself.

*Worship in English, is a shortening of the Old English Woerth-ship, ascribing worth or value to SOMEONE or something!*

*Many different words are used both in the Hebrew OT and the Greek NT both to describe worship and in connection with worship, including bowing down, falling, humbling yourself, praying, thanking, singing, praising God, having confidence in God, depending upon Him, trusting and honoring Him, more than others, all this is part of worship.*

### I. Why the worship of God is important, and right –

<sup>19</sup> The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” John 4:19–20 (NKJV)

1. The woman’s question and Jesus’ answer both imply the importance of worshipping God.
2. The woman’s motive for bringing up the topic of WORSHIP, was probably not perfect, Jesus was getting PERSONAL in their conversation and she was probably feeling a bit pinched by His knowledge of her personal life –

<sup>17</sup> The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.” John 4:17–18 (NKJV)

3. Her move is from His personal observation about her five husbands, and her current man who is NOT her HUSBAND, to the where of worship, a topic she rightly figure would be of interest to Jesus Whom at this point she perceived to be a prophet – <sup>19</sup> The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. John 4:19

4. Jesus’ repetition of the word “worship” in His answer shows us just how IMPORTANT WORSHIP is –

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do

not know; we know what we **worship**, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true **worshippers** will **worship** the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to **worship** Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who **worship** Him must **worship** in spirit and truth.” John 4:21-24

*Repetition was the main way of emphasizing the importance of something of something in Jesus’ time, and in Bible times in general and here Jesus answers the woman’s question repeating the word “worship” 7 times, also the number of perfection and using the word “worshippers” also, totally 8 times in just 4 verses!*

*II. The worship of God is important to anyone who believes in the God of the Bible, WHY? The Bible tells us the Who, How and Why of worship, the where and when too -*

*1. God is our CREATOR, and the Creator of our world –*

**1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)**

*2. We are created in God’s image, designed to worship God as much or more than other creatures are –*

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:26–28 (NKJV)

*3. God is sovereign King over us, our lives, times and circumstances are in His hand –*

<sup>34</sup> And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. <sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, “What have You done?”

<sup>36</sup> At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. <sup>37</sup> Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down. Daniel 4:34–37 (NKJV)

*Note, after he was HUMBLED for seven years, King Nebuchadnezzar learned to respect, honor and WORSHIP GOD!*

*4. As God is sovereign over us, we owe Him our obedience! Obedience and worship go hand-in-hand together, sin is transgression of God’s law -*

<sup>4</sup>Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. 1 John 3:4–6 (NKJV)

Jesus (God's Son) says – John 14:15 (NKJV) <sup>15</sup>**“If you love Me, keep My commandments.**

5. *Singing praises to God is part of our worship -*

<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! Psalm 47:6 (NKJV)

III. *Satan, the ungodly, an ungodly WORLD would have us worship anything but God –*

<sup>22</sup>**You worship what you do not know;...**

1. *Worshipping on a different mountain was among the least of the differences between the Jews and the Samaritans –*

<sup>32</sup>Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*. Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)

A. *They (the Samaritans) were the ones who did wickedly against the Covenant, the Greek Tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes changed the 10 commandments, basically turned them upside down ...*

B. *This is what Satan does, he tries to make wickedness, sin and disobedience seem wise and God seem the TYRANT for what He denies –*

<sup>3</sup>Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

<sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup>but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” <sup>4</sup>Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Genesis 3:1–6 (NKJV)

2. *Modern radical feminism / atheism / environmentalism CHALLENGE the Biblical idea of worshipping God –*

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in His *own image*; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup>Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:27–28 (NKJV)

A. *God says we are created in His image, the atheist / feminists say that's not God's WORD that is man's writing to subjugate women and nature ...*

B. *God says be fruitful and multiply, Satan says, ‘no, the world's too populated already, have an abortion, get a job not a family, multiply money honey, not children, they have too big a carbon footprint.*

C. *Worship nature, mother earth / Not God in Heaven, HE has too many rules ...*

IV. *The hour has already come for true / spiritual worship of God –*

**<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.” John 4:23–26 (NKJV)**

1. *The hour spoken of in John 4:23 was Christ’s hour, His coming and His cross brought truth to worship*

A. *Not just truth against falsehood*

B. *Truth revealed when in the Old Testament you had only symbol –*

*For instance – in the OT you had the offering up of lambs, bulls and goats as sacrifices for sin but now we have Jesus –*

**<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)**

2. *Jesus was and IS the REALITY, the TRUTH to which the symbolic was pointing -*

**<sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)**

A. *In the OT times the offerings pointed forward to what Christ would do –*

B. *Today, with the Lord’s Supper we remember what Jesus Christ has already done, dying on the cross for us!*

C. *Celebrating the Lord’s Supper is part of our spiritual worship pointing to and remembering the TRUTH of Jesus’ sacrifice that saves us!*

3. *Of course, we are empowered by God’s Holy Spirit, both to see / understand and appreciate Spiritual Things –*

A. *Christ’s Cross is not seen, understood or appreciated by an ungodly world –*

**<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)**

B. *It is one of those wonderful things, in fact chief among them, that the world cannot see but God’s Spirit reveals -*

**<sup>9</sup> But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” <sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NKJV)**

V. *Application –*

1. *Let us seek to WORSHIP the Living and True God in the right ways!*

2. *Let us seek the power of God’s Spirit enabling the understanding and performance of spiritual worship of God, even now as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper!*