

John 4:16-24

Verses 16-19

As noted in [John 2:25](#), Jesus knows what is in man. Jesus had previously stated to her that if she knew who He was, she would have asked Him and He would give living waters. Jesus is starting the process of revealing Himself to her. The woman continues to think that He is talking about physical water and Jesus also begins to transition to her need for spiritual quenching, rather than physical quenching of thirst.

Jesus knowing the heart of everyone tells her that He knows that she has had 5 marriages and that she is currently living with someone. One can only imagine what this woman must have been feeling and thinking as this total Jewish stranger accurately states personal information about her that maybe no one else knew. This knowledge that Jesus has of her leads to her the conclusion that He is a prophet. Although He is a prophet, she has stopped well short of who He really is. However, further into this story, she finds out who He really is ([verses 25-26](#)).

Verse 20

This woman being a Samaritan did not believe in the complete canon of the Old Testament. Samaritans believed only in the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the Bible) which resulted in them not believing that Jerusalem was the appointed and holy place of worship as it is stated in [2 Chronicles 6: 1-6](#).

The Samaritans believed that the appointed place of worship was on Mount Gerizim which is where the covenant blessings were read ([Genesis 28](#)). Abraham built an altar to the Lord in [Genesis 12: 6-7](#) in Shechem and Mount Gerizim overlooked Shechem.

Verse 21

The need for a physical temple and temple worship will soon be done away with as a result of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The temple, the animal sacrifices performed at the temple, the festivals/feasts at the temple, and the High priest performing his duties at the temple were pointing to Christ. The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D, but the need for it was done away with at the death of Jesus who entered into a heavenly temple and after completing the work the work of our High Priest, sat down.

Verse 22

Samaritans did not know God as they did not believe the complete Old Testament scriptures and they worshiped in ignorance. Salvation is from the Jews as Israel was God's chosen nation to whom He gave many benefits to ([Romans 9:1-5](#)) ([Romans 3:1-2](#)). We as Gentiles are the wild olive branches that are grafted into the root of the olive tree ([Romans 11:11-17](#)).

Verse 23

The tabernacle and the temple were where God met with His people. In the incarnation of the eternal Logos, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The Greek word for dwelt is *eskenosen* which means "to tabernacle or pitch one's tent" as Christ came and dwelt among His creation to do the work He was sent to do. However, through the perfect life, death of Jesus, and His resurrection there would no longer be need of a physical temple as the place where God met with His people and where worship through sacrifices were performed. After the death of Christ, God would dwell with

His people via the Holy Spirit dwelling in the hearts of His believers which began at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2**.

Worship at the temple was performed by outward religious activities and rituals. The Old Covenant system of worship was centered around sacrifices. With death of Jesus the true and holy sacrifice as the Lamb of God, temple worship was soon to be replaced with worship that the Father would be seeking in the New Covenant.

True worship of God is in spirit and in truth. The term "in spirit" is referencing not an outward worship, but rather a true and sincere worship from the heart. The New Covenant as mentioned in **Hebrews 8:7-13** (quoting from Jeremiah 31) discusses how the laws would not be written on stone but rather in the hearts. This worship can only come from a heart that has been born again and changed by the power of God the Holy Spirit and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. As stated in **John 2:25** "and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man." God knows the inner man and is not fooled by outward religious duties or activities, but rather knows who is truly worshipping from the heart.

***Matthew 15:8** 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.

Worshipping in truth is referring to worshipping God as dictated in His Word. The Holy Spirit guides and directs true worship as He points us the truth of the Bible. God's word is truth (**John 17:17**) and to worship in spirit in truth we must follow the instruction for worship as set forth by God in His holy Word. We do not get to decide what is appropriate worship, but rather God decides. He is not pleased with all kinds of worship, but all worship must be in line with that stated according to His word.

Examples of worship:

- **Romans 12:1-2** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, ^[a]acceptable to God, *which is your* ^[b]spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this ^[c]world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may ^[d]prove what the will of God is, that which is good and ^[e]acceptable and perfect.
- **Hebrews 12:28** Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us ^[i]show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;
- **Hebrews 13:15-16** Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that ^[d]give thanks to His name. ¹⁶And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- **1 Corinthians 14:40** But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

Elements of a worship in a corporate worship

- **Reading and preaching the Bible:** **1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 4:2**
- **Singing the Bible:** **Ephesians 5:19, Psalms**
- **Prayer:** **Matthew 21:13**
- **Encouraging one another:** **Hebrews 10:25**

Verse 24

God is Spirit as He is invisible and omnipresent. Those who worship Him MUST worship Him in Spirit and in truth. So often we ascribe praise and worship to Jesus and Him only. So often we put all the emphasis on the Holy Spirit. We should praise God as the triune God He is. However, so often the Father is one who gets pushed to background of our worship. True worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth as those are the worshipers He is seeking.

