

THE ESSENTIALS FOR WORSHIP

John 4:21-22

Introduction:

1. A Surprising Answer (John 4:21)

A) Neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem

- > This statement would be inconceivable to this woman

- > Something is about to transpire that will revolutionize worship

B) The hour is coming (John 4:21a)

- > This phrase points us to a theme that John will weave throughout his telling of the story about Jesus (John 2:4; 5:25, 28; 7:30; 8:20; 12:27; 13:1; 17:1)

- > The event that is going to revolutionize worship is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Christ will revolutionize worship (Matthew 27:50-51)

C) Worshipping God demands redemption and must be Christocentric – Christ centered

- > God's desire to dwell with those He created in His image
 - Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8a)
 - Israel (Exodus 25:8)
 - New earth (Revelation 21:1-3)

- > God's beauty and character would cause those who come near Him to worship Him
 - Moses' response in Exodus 34:1-8
 - The heavenly throne room (Revelation 4:9-11)

- > But something happened in the story that severely impacted worship – SIN
 - Adam and Eve seek to hide from God (Genesis 3:8b-10)
 - Israel's response at Sinai to the holy presence of God (Exodus 20:18-21)
 - Isaiah's response to God's presence (Isaiah 6:1-6)

> To make it possible for fallen / sinful man to worship God, God would have to do something

For Israel, He told them to construct the Tabernacle (Leviticus 9:22-24)

QUESTION: Why are the Person and Work of Jesus Christ essential for worship?

Jesus is the New Tabernacle of God (John 1:14)

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Tabernacle giving us access to God (Hebrews 10:1-10)

He is our Great High Priest (Hebrews 10:11-14)

He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)

2. A Decisive Answer (John 4:22)

A) The Samaritan view of worship is wrong (John 4:22a)

> Notice the clarity and finality of Jesus assessment

> Why can Jesus be so decisive in His judgment about their worship?

He's God and therefore a respected authority on worship

You can't know God apart from His Word

How can you know God apart from the story of Job?

How can you know God apart from Psalm 103 or 139?

How can you know God apart from Isaiah 53?

How can you know God apart from the prophecy of Habakkuk?

(Habakkuk 3:17-19)

B) The Jews have a correct understanding of worship (John 4:22b)

> This cannot mean that all Jews are worshipping God acceptably in Jerusalem (John 2:13-16)

> Jesus must be pointing to the fact that the Jews are the recipients of God's Word
(Deut 4:7-8; Romans 3:1-2)

And this Word of God reveals God's work of salvation (Rom 1:1-3; 2 Tim 3:14-15)

What a shame, the Jews had the Word of God but they didn't know it or understand it
(John 5:36-40; Luke 24:44-49)

CONCLUSION:

True worshippers seek to meet with God and in that meeting to worship, adore, and thank Him

Jesus Christ and His mission are both foundational and central for worshipping God