



A Call to Worship - John 4:19-26

Focus

As we pick up in the middle of Jesus' ongoing conversation with the woman at the well, we have revealed to us the good news that Jesus has now opened the way for people from every part of the world to be able to worship God, which is the very purpose for which God has created us and now redeemed us. The goal is that we might grow in our own worship of Him as well in our work of helping others also become worshipers of the Father.

Opening Question

Have you had any conversations this week with people – non-Christians – about Jesus? How did it go?

Read

For context, read John 4:1-26.

Some Questions for Reflection

Beginning with verses 19-20, why do you think the Samaritan woman responds to Jesus' revelation about her multiple husbands by raising this issue of religious controversy between the Jews and Samaritans?

What's the point Jesus makes to her in verse 21?

What does Jesus mean by "the hour"? (see 2:4; 16:32; 17:1)

What's the point Jesus makes to her in verse 22?

What was the problem with the worship of the Samaritans?

What does it mean that salvation is from the Jews?

According to verses 23-24, what kind of worshipers is the Father seeking?

Reflecting on Sunday's sermon, discuss what it means to worship God in spirit and truth? (Some additional verses you might find helpful to look up: Matthew 15:8; John 3:6; 17:7; 14:6)

How is the nature of God (God is spirit) related to the *how* of worship?

Why do you think Jesus chooses to emphasize God as Father in this section?

When will this kind of worship be inaugurated? In what way does the person and work of Jesus change the nature of worship between the Old Testament and New Testament?

Why do you think Jesus so readily reveals Himself as the Christ to this Samaritan woman when at other times He seems less open about His identity?

Closing Reflection & Applications

What Jesus says about worship in this section is so important and defining within the history of God's plan of salvation. Why do you think He chooses to reveal it to a Samaritan woman?

Why is what Jesus says about worship here such good news for this woman, and for us?

The joyful worship of God is the ultimate goal of life and salvation. Why is that so?

How can you more fully worship God in spirit?

How can you more fully worship God in truth?

After our own worship of God, why is the next most important thing for us to work at bringing people from all over the world into the everlasting joy of knowing and worshiping the true God?