

Worship 2 – Spirit and Truth

John 4:1-26

Fallen Condition Focus (FCF): We don't need to hide from our Savior

Who were the Samaritans? The Samaritans were a racially mixed group of partly Jewish and partly Gentile ancestry, who were disdained by both Jews and non-Jews (see Luke 10:33; 17:16; John 8:48; see also 2 Kings 17:24–31, which describes how the king of Assyria brought foreign people to settle in Samaria in 722 b.c.; over time they had intermarried with some Jews who had remained in the area). Many inhabitants of this region between Judea and Galilee were descendants of the OT northern kingdom of Israel, although from the Jewish perspective these Samaritans had assimilated strongly into non-Jewish culture and had intermarried with Mesopotamian colonists. The Samaritans had their own version of the Pentateuch, their own temple on Mount Gerizim, and their own rendering of Israelite history. (*ESV Study Bible, notes on John 4:4*)

John 4:23 “The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth”

Point 1 – The truth about us

- Who is this woman?
 - She expects rejection from Jesus
 - Within her nation she expects to be treated as a second-class citizen
 - Water at noon: She is avoiding others
 - Women didn't leave their husbands, they were abandoned
 - In her culture, she was damaged goods
- Discussion about worship?
 - Is this an attempt to change the subject?
 - In her perception Jesus has every reason to reject her, but he doesn't
 - God is not rejecting her → this leads to worship

Point 2 – The truth about God

- Jesus doesn't accept their errors
- Something unprecedented is going on – Messiah is here
- Argument: Some examples of the Old Testament law are set aside, therefore all law is set aside
- We must receive God as He proclaims Himself to be, not as we want to remake him

Point 3 – Worship in Spirit and Truth

- What does it look like to worship in Spirit?
 - Worship needs to be emotional without being emotionalistic
 - Emotional: Engaging our hearts at a deep level
 - Emotionalistic: Emotional experience is the goal instead of God
- God is Spirit, therefore why should he be limited to a physical place?
 - God is everywhere
 - Not like the idols
- God is spirit, therefore we must be engaged in our spirits