

J.J.

TRUE WORSHIPPERS (Part IV)

John 4:20-24

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- August Celebrants – 1 Nanay Fe Abeleda, Randley Toribio, 13 Elena Mempin, 29 Noel Gallora, Chicay Lalic
- Anniversary – 6 Ollan and Leng Toribio

INTRODUCTION :

Speaking to a large audience, D.L. Moody held up a glass and asked, "How can I get the air out of this glass?" One man shouted, "Suck it out with a pump!" Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass." After numerous other suggestions Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." He then went on to explain that victory in the Christian life is not accomplished by "sucking out a sin here and there," but by being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Do you know why some people are empty on the inside? It's because they are not filled with the Holy Spirit.

If you remember the Samaritan woman, that's the reason she has had five husbands. There's an emptiness inside that can't be filled. All of us have that emptiness without the Holy Spirit. We think it's a house, a car, a relationship, food, a hobby and etc that will fill us up but as I've heard before that the vacuum in our heart is so big that only God can fill it.

Brothers and sisters, today we're going to talk about the final element of being a true worshipper.

John 4:20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

PRAY

Review :

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

Etymology : seeks “zeteo” to seek in order to find; to require – demand something from someone

Notice? He seeks. He requires

- The Father seeks true worship.
- The Father requires true worship.

***WHO ARE THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS?**

- I. Their knowledge of God is inerrant
- II. Their relationship with God is intimate
- III. Their worship of God comes from the inside

I. THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS INERRANT

John 4: 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

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The first question of a worshipper : Who am I worshipping? Do you know Him? Is He true or not? How will you know if He is true or not? (THE BIBLE)

II. THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS INTIMATE

21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Note : First, note how Jesus Christ describes true worshipers will worship the Father and then for they are the kind of worshipers the Father

In short : In order for someone to become a true worshipper, the foundation is the correct knowledge of who God is and then he must have an intimate relationship with God.

Now, what is preventing people in order to have an intimate relationship with God?
SIN!

That's why our Lord Jesus was promising to the woman everlasting refreshment but He had to confront the sin in this woman first.

John 4: 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

¹⁷ The woman answered and said, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

Church, let's remember in order to be a true worshipper, we must admit the sin in our lives first before we can worship.

³⁹ And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."

To continue

III. Their worship of God comes from the inside

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Worship must come from the inside.

*Psalm 103 :1 Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.*

Remember first : That the Lord always keeps it in tandem 23... the true worshipers will worship ... in the Spirit and in truth.... 24... worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth

Let me explain :

1. Spirit-filled worship is based on truth

John 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.

The Holy Spirit doesn't function outside of truth. He is called the Spirit of truth. He will be contradicting Himself when He doesn't operate in truth.

Illustration : One time, some of my colleagues in the Philippines said they love to attend Mass in a certain church because the mass is still said in Latin. They said, "Ang sarap ng feeling" because it's nice to hear the sound of Latin. The question is, did they understand anything?

How would we know that your Spirit-filled worship is based on truth?

John 16 :14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

1 Corinthians 12 :³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

In short : Your heart grows closer to Jesus, you are awed by Him, you fall in love with Him more. You want to follow Him because He is Lord. **The spotlight goes to our Lord Jesus Christ in our worship, NOT TO THE CHURCH OR THE PASTOR OR THE WORSHIP TEAM...BUT TO JESUS ALONE.**

***Quote :** Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship
– John Piper “Desiring God”

2. Truth fuels the fire for Spirit-filled worship

Note : Haven’t you noticed that your heart lifts up to the Lord when sometimes you hear the Word of God either being sung or preached?

I call singing... the gift of preaching and teaching (it’s the Word of God being declared through song)

For example : You get convicted by the truth and you bow down before the holiness of God. THAT’S WORSHIP. You get comforted by the truth (God’s love, grace) and you just sing your heart out with joy.

Illustration in the Bible :

Romans 11: ³³Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

*How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!*

³⁴“Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”

*³⁵“Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?”*

*³⁶For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen*

Note : This is described in the Bible as a doxology (doxo – honor, glory)

Paul broke into this doxology after he had explained the truth of God in Romans 1 up to Romans 11: 32

***That’s why A.W. Tozer says :**

Quote : “To worship, is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery, that Majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call Our Father Which Art in Heaven”

One of my favourite songs : Everything by Lifehouse

And how can I stand here with you and not be moved by you
Would you tell me how could it be any better than this

3. It is the Holy Spirit who makes us understand the truth.

1 Corinthians 2: ¹²What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Example : If you are being “blessed” by the songs containing God’s Word and the preaching of God’s Word, that is the Holy Spirit. If you are being “convicted” by God’s Word that is the Holy Spirit. Don’t resist it. Respond in your heart.

You have to remember it is all by God’s grace. Even the time when you understood the truth of who Jesus is and what He did for you, it is because the Holy Spirit made you understand it.

There was a time when I was attending a service, I was crying the whole worship service, from the songs to the preaching of the Word because it was coming to me like a flood.

Announcement and Illustration : We just received word from Riverview Bible Camp, that they will still be closed until maybe half of next year. This means, we either have to find a new place for our winter retreat or we will have to postpone our winter retreat. I love our winter retreats because that is the time that we have intense focus on who God is. There were many great testimonies in the winter retreat. But the testimony that would best illustrate what we’re preaching today is when one of the church members said that he understood who Jesus is in one of those retreats. THAT’S THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

*Ephesians 1: ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.** ¹⁸I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*

***Quote :** God must speak to us before we have any liberty to speak to him. He must disclose to us who he is before we can offer him what we are in acceptable worship. The worship of God is always a response to the Word of God. Scripture wonderfully directs and enriches our worship.

- John Stott

***So how can we worship God in Spirit and in truth?**

- We must have the Holy Spirit in us.

***Worship is an overflow.**

Illustration : If you shake a bottle of Coke, then release the cap, you will know it’ll just spill all over the place.

In the Philippines, we have a term for that....it's because of the spirit.

This is what happens when a person is full of the Holy Spirit.

This is one of the reasons why God allows challenges and problems in our lives. He wants to shake us, so what’s one the inside will overflow. To Christians, the overflow is worship. That’s why in my more than 20 years as a pastor. I noticed some Christians, if they have a problem, you will see them in Bible studies and worship service. If they have no problem, their attendance in church either gone or at best erratic.

Now, do you know WHO is the greatest hindrance to worship? Self Something is bubbling inside us and we just keep it in. Kakahiya. It's either our pride or our self-consciousness and etc.

Look at what David says,

*Psalm 51:15 Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.*

Note : The psalmist was saying to God, just give me an opportunity to speak and I will declare your greatness.

That's why Jesus said in the preceding verses :

John 4: 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Our Lord talked about this in

John 7: 37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit....

True worship is impossible without the Holy Spirit. Why?

²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Lets look at 1 Corinthians 2 again :

1 Corinthians 2: For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

In short : We can only connect, understand, be awed of who God is until the Spirit of God moves within us.

Illustration : I have heard Ray-An Fuentes say, that the worship leader in a worship service is the Holy Spirit. As good as our worship team is, without the Holy Spirit, there is no worship. Without the Holy Spirit, no matter how prepared, studied and good the preacher is, you will never understand the Word of God and glorify His name or convicted of your sins.

Let me put this on the table : If you are bored with worship and 99% of the time, bored with the one who's preaching in front and you are only excited if it talks about some psychological ideas of self-help, self-encouragement thing and then shuts off when sin is being talked about or the holiness of God or the glory of God or the love of God, then the Holy Spirit might not be in you.

Quote : I can safely say, on the authority of all that is revealed in the Word of God, that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven. – A.W. Tozer

IT'S THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO LEADS US INTO WORSHIP BUT HE NEEDS TO BE IN YOU IN ORDER TO LEAD YOU TO WORSHIP OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

And if the Holy Spirit isn't in you, then it's a cause of great eternal concern.

Romans 8: 9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

So the question is, how can the Holy Spirit be in you? Jesus told it to the Samaritan woman
John 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Who is the gift of God? Jesus.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

If the Holy Spirit is talking to you right now, then you must receive His Son and the Holy Spirit will enter your life and you will be satisfied.... you will be satisfied.... will become in them a spring of water welling up

(Lead prayer)

And if you are a Christian who has lost taste for the Lord and finds worshipping Him or serving Him as a grudging duty, let me tell you this story.

Story : In a seminary missions class, Herbert Jackson told how, as a new missionary, he was assigned a car that would not start without a push.

After pondering his problem, he devised a plan. He went to the school near his home, got permission to take some children out of class, and had them push his car off. As he made his rounds, he would either park on a hill or leave the engine running. He used this ingenious procedure for two years. Ill health forced the Jackson family to leave, and a new missionary came to that station. When Jackson proudly began to explain his arrangement for getting the car started, the new man began looking under the hood. Before the explanation was complete, the new missionary interrupted, "Why, Dr. Jackson, I believe the only trouble is this loose cable." He gave the cable a twist, stepped into the car, pushed the switch, and to Jackson's astonishment, the engine roared to life.

For two years needless trouble had become routine. The power was there all the time. Only a loose connection kept Jackson from putting that power to work.

Note : Be connected with God again. Read His Word again (the sword of the Spirit). Pray to Him again. BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.... (it just means that your life must be controlled by the Spirit...give up all the controls to God!!!)

If you do, look at the fruit that you enjoy...

Galatians 5 : 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control.

And this....

Ephesians 5: 18... Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

You will be worshipping God from the inside.

CONCLUSION :

Quote : Of all the things Christ wants for us, loving Him and focusing our attention on Him are the most important. – Charles Stanley

That's why in our church we call Sunday, the Lord's Day. This is a time for us to focus all our attention to Him.

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S.G.D.