

Title: "Here We Are to Worship"

Scripture: John 4:19-24

Speaker: Josh Maness

Event: Sunday Morning Service

Date: September 14, 2014

**John 4:19-24** *"The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

Most would admit to know the meaning of worship, but they really don't. They might claim to enjoy the act of worship but they don't. They don't want to put someone above themselves, which is what worship means – putting God above our own selves. People come in to church late, leave early, and focus on other things that need to get done during church. They don't participate in the act of worship.

#### **Five Things to Look at About Worship:**

1. **The Action of Worship:** worship means courtesy or reverence paying divine honor to a deity. Do we honor God in our worship? We are called by God to be active participants, not spectators. Sometimes we see one person worshipping and think that what they are doing is enough for us to share too. We think we can sit back and watch while they do all the work. True worship is paying honor to a living God. Attendance is not worship.
2. **The Aim of Worship:** God is the aim of worship. He is the sole object of our worship. Philippians 3:3-4 *"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:"* If we come in with the world on our mind, there is no way that we can have our complete focus on God. We don't worship angels, demons, devils, preachers, or teachers. We don't come to worship materials. We don't come to glorify pews, music, arrangements, tapestries on the wall, or anything else. Our aim of worship should be to glorify God.
3. **The Absolute of Worship:** verse 24 *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* That word *must* is an absolute. There are absolutes and musts in the word of God for all people.
  - a. We must have faith. Hebrews 11:6 *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* Some have temporary faith – they have it when things are good, but lose it when things are bad. Must is not temporary. It is permanent.
  - b. Salvation is a must – Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:7 *"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."* The only way to gain access to worship to Jesus Christ is by salvation.
  - c. We must worship – Most times we don't feel like worshipping. We have to be pushed by God to worship.

In order to build a skyscraper you have to have a strong foundation. We try to build our lives on the foundation made of the wrong thing. We aren't starting with a firm foundation. We must have faith, we must be born again, and we must worship God.

4. **The Attitude of Worship:** I Peter 2:5 *"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."* We can have t-shirts, bumper stickers, and

## Title: "Here We Are to Worship"

bibles, but if we don't have these things for the right reasons, all of these are in vain. Things that disturb our hearts from worshipping in spirit:

- a. Being late – you have to prepare your heart for worship
  - b. Checking your watch – if we're always worried about the time, how are we ready to worship?
  - c. Carrying on conversations in church – God has given the speakers the messages intended for us to hear so if we are talking over them, how are we going to get anything from the message directed at us?
  - d. Coming in and eating –
- 5. The Authority of Worship** – John 14:6 *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* No other person on this earth can claim to be the Messiah and actually be him other than Christ. He has the power and has proven himself worthy of worship time and time again. He is our way, the truth, and the light by which we live.
- a. John 4:25-26 *"The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he."*
  - b. John 8:32 *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*
  - c. John 17:17 *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."*