
Sermon Notes

February 17, 2019

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Why We Worship John 4:24

A Universal Truth

- ❖ Everybody worships something
 - the question is not whether or not you worship, but what it is that you are worshiping
 - is your worship leading you in the right direction and ending up in the right place?
 - “Idols inevitably break the hearts of their worshipers.” (C. S. Lewis)
- ❖ We worship because we are designed to be worshipers
 - worship matters to God
 - worship is never irrelevant/unimportant
- ❖ “We should consider it the great end of our existence to be found numbered among the worshipers of God.” (John Calvin)
- ❖ What does it mean to be a worshiper of God?

Spirit and Truth

- ❖ Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well (John 4)

- a dialogue made up of many questions and answers
- in response to a question about worship, Jesus gives an unexpected, somewhat enigmatic response
 - the Father SEEKS worshipers
 - worship is meant to be offered in spirit and truth
- ❖ D. A. Carson notes that *in truth* “is first and foremost a way of saying that we must worship God by means of Christ.”
 - Jesus is the One who gives us the life-giving Spirit
 - only the Spirit of God can bring life to our spirits and enable us to know, love, and worship God the Father through Jesus Christ
- ❖ It takes God to worship God
 - we are dependent on the Father to make us true worshipers
 - *no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.* (1 Cor. 12:3)

A Worshiping People

- ❖ God has always planned to have a people who will bring Him glory in this life and the next
 - 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - God gathers His people in community to bring Him testimony, praise, honor and glory

- God is enthroned on the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3)
- ❖ God's presence with His people has always been what sets them apart and distinguishes them from other people
 - Adam & Eve
 - Tabernacle and Temple
 - Moses (Exodus 33:15-16)
 - Jesus/Emmanuel (God with us) dwells within us both individually and corporately by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19)
- ❖ The way we respond to God's presence within and among us is what defines us as the people of God
 - receiving and welcoming God's presence lies at the heart of being a true worshiper
 - we rely upon God to invite and enable us to come to Him
 - we rely upon God to show us what He is really like (Matthew 11:27)
 - our worship of God grows deeper as we know Him more deeply
 - worship begins with God's revelation and redemption

- ❖ we should be known for a compassion that cannot help "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... Scripture wonderfully directs and enriches our worship." (John Stott)
 - if we want to grow in our ability to express and experience true worship, then we will want to encounter more and more of God in our Bibles
 - to be Spirit-led is to be Word-fed
 - Colossians 3:16

Personal Reflection

1. Does your attitude toward giving change with changing Everybody worships something. Who or what do you worship?
2. Jesus says God is seeking worshipers who worship Him in spirit and in truth. What heart habits are part of the regular rhythm of your life? How do they ensure that your spirit is being nurtured and fed by God's truth?
3. How does your time in God's Word prepare you for and lead you into worship both individually and corporately?
4. It takes God to worship God. In what ways do you ask God to prepare your heart to meet with Him as you gather with the company of His people?
5. Both individual and corporate worship are important in the life of the believer. What distinctly different blessings do you anticipate as you meet with God in each of these two different ways?