

“Finding Your Place WITH Him”
November 4, 2012

John 4:21-26; 14:1-7

PROP- The Father constantly seeks after us...and Jesus relentlessly pursues us—to bring us into an amazing lifestyle called “WORSHIP.”

1. EVERYONE WORSHIPS SOMETHING.

Ecclesiastes 3:11- He has “set eternity in our hearts”—designed in us the deep need for and capacity to worship.

Luke 4:7- Satan tempted Jesus: “Worship me.”

(Lit.- “to be so enamored with the greatness of another that you gaze upon them, desire to be with them, become like them, serve them, & receive their approval)

- Some worship people (“creature more than the Creator” Romans 1:25)
- Others worship themselves (Phil. 3:19- “their belly”—their own desires for pleasure, recognition, or control)
- While others settle for a “distant spirituality” (Acts 17- “The unknown god”—a vague sense of One you do not or can not know)

2. “TRUE WORSHIP” CHANGES EVERYTHING.

The heart of “true worshipers”:

Those who “worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3)

- **WE BECOME SPIRITUAL.** Our “spirit” comes to life “by the Spirit of God” (Col. 1:23) **SEE 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-12**
- **WE BEHOLD JESUS.** We learn to “glory in Jesus Christ.” We learn what it means to “worship at His footstool” (Psalm 99:5)—the place of established royal authority.
 - **See the world in a new light.** “The earth is His footstool” (Isaiah 66:1). We come to know and trust Him as the “Great King over all the earth” (Psalm 47:2)—established in the reality that “the earth is the Lord’s” (Psalm 24:1)
 - **See the powers of darkness in proper perspective.** Jesus has made “His enemies His footstool” (Psalm 110:1)—He “made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Col. 2:15).

- **WE MOVE FROM “SELF-RELIANCE” TO “TRUST”.** Discovering that we are “not our own” (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 7:23,35)
 - The Samaritan woman discovered that Jesus brings up your past—in order to bring you out of its effects. Never to condemn. Only to connect. He is the “Messiah”—savior, restorer...not the accuser.
 - Receiving His new identity: 1 Peter 2:9-
 - “Chosen”- *selected, favorite*
 - “Royal”- *kingly in nature*
 - “Holy”- *devoted to One—for only one purpose (i.e., drinking water only)*
 - “Peculiar”- *a people well-preserved—because of the One they belong to*

RESPONSE

1. Seize the “NOW”!

“The time is coming and has NOW come...” (John 4:23)

“I will bless the Lord at ALL times...His praise...continually be in my mouth” (Psalm 103:1)

“TODAY, if you hear His voice...” (Hebrews 3:15)

“God set a certain day (*to enter in*), calling it “TODAY” ...” (Hebrews 4:7)

“Come let us bow down and worship...TODAY...” (Psalm 95:6-7)

2. BE THANKFUL.

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe” (Hebrews 12:28)

“Thankful” (*eucharisto*)- to come under the full influence of (His unshakeable Kingdom).