



MAKING GOD SMILE "By Worshiping in Spirit & in Truth" John 4:23

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In a conversation with a Samaritan woman in which they discussed worship, Jesus told her that the Father was seeking "true worshipers (who) will worship the Father in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23). We need to understand clearly what the Father is looking for.

I. Worship According to Jesus.

- A. Samaritan worship—syncretism.
- B. Jewish worship—formalism, nominalism. Isaiah 1:10ff, Matthew 23:1ff
- C. "True" worship—"the hour is coming." See John 12:23
 - 1. True worship is based on "truth." See John 8:31–36
 - 2. True worship is born of the Spirit in the spirit. See John 14:17 ff

II. Worship in the Modern Era.

- A. The old dangers of syncretism, nominalism, and formalism.
- B. The new tendency to limit "worship" to "praise."
- C. The enduring need to engage in worship in its fullness.

III. Worship in the Early Church.

- A. The emphasis on praise—formal and personal. See Acts 2:4, 8
 - 1. Praise is a unique human response to divine revelation.
 - a. The divine means of self-revelation—general and special.
 - b. The human ability to receive revelation (See Temple).
 - 2. Praise is an intelligent articulation of appreciation.
 - a. Revelation of God as Creator, Sustainer and Ruler. Psalm 100
 - b. Revelation of God as faithful, just and steadfast in love. Psalm 9
 - c. Revelation of "God in Christ" as Savior and Lord. Revelation 5
- B. The emphasis on inner attitude "proskuneo"—"kiss towards."
 - 1. The sense of awe in the presence of majesty.
 - 2. The attitude of servanthood in the presence of authority.
- C. The emphasis on practical service.
 - 1. "Latruo." Romans 12:1-2; Philipians 3:3
 - 2. "Leiturgeo." Acts 13:2
- D. The emphasis on daily application. Colossians 3:22–24

IV. So What Is the Father Looking For?

- A. Worshipers steeped in the knowledge of His self-revelation.
- B. Worshipers unabashedly committed to personal and public praise.
- C. Worshipers humbly submitted to the Father and His will for their lives.
- D. Worshipers gladly involved in practical works of service.
- E. Worshipers who worship at their work and work at their worship.

Points to Ponder: I know what He's looking for—did He find one in me?