

The Gospel According to John

“Jesus’ Radical Transformation of Worship”

John 4:7-26



John 4:7-10

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water.

Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him,

"How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?"

(For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

John 4:11-14

She said to Him, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?”

Jesus answered and said to her,
“Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

John 4:15-18

The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw.” He said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.” The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.”

John 4:19-22

The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

John 4:23-26

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

Main Idea

Jesus radically transformed worship of the Father by becoming the better *place* of worship, by establishing a better *basis* for worship, and by making possible a better *way* to worship.

Prophetic Background

Ezekiel 37:24-25

My servant David will be king over them,
and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk
in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them.
They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant,
in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it,
they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever;
and David My servant will be their prince forever.

Prophetic Background

Ezekiel 37:26-28

I will make a covenant of peace with them;
it will be an everlasting covenant with them.

And I will place them and multiply them,
and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.

My dwelling place also will be with them;
and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies
Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.

Prophetic Background

Revelation 21:1-3

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth passed away,
and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city,
new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne,
saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men,
and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people,
and God Himself will be among them.

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and God Himself will be among them.

Radically Transformed Worship

A better *place* of worship.



This was the elephant in the living room!

John 4:7-10

The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

What was the issue?

What place of worship did God choose?

Deuteronomy 12:5

But you shall seek the LORD at **the place which the LORD your God will choose** from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and there you shall come.

Because the Samaritans accepted only the Pentateuch, they denied that God had chosen Jerusalem for His dwelling place, and this led to great tensions.

How did Jesus respond?

While validating the authority of *all* Old Testament text...

“You worship **what you do not know**; we worship **what we know**, for salvation is from the Jews” (v 22).

Jesus shifts the discussion to *the better place of worship* that is coming and has come.

A better place of worship

Jesus was the *temporary* Tabernacle
of God come to His people.

Necessary Background

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...

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John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us...

Necessary Background

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and **tabernacled** among us...

Ezekiel 37:26-27

I...will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.

My dwelling place also **will be with them.**

Necessary Background

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us...

Ezekiel 37:26-27

I...will set **My sanctuary in their midst**
forever.

My dwelling place also will be with them.

Necessary Background

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us...

Ezekiel 37:26-27

I...will set **My sanctuary in their midst** forever.
My dwelling place also will be with them.

John 2:19 and 21

“Destroy **this sanctuary**,
and in three days I will raise it up...”

He was speaking of **the sanctuary of His body**.

He has become and will be the place of worship!

John 4:20-23

“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is **the place** where men ought to worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when **neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem** will you worship the Father.

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...

He has become and **will be** the place of worship!

John 4:20-23

“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain,
and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place
where men ought to worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me,

an hour is coming when neither in this mountain
nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

But **an hour is coming**, and now is, when the
true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...

And yet...

John 4:20-23

“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain,
and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place
where men ought to worship.”

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But an hour is coming, **and now is**, when the
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Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me,
an hour is coming when neither in this mountain
nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

But an hour is coming, **and now is**, when the
true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...

For now He is their temporary Tabernacle
dwelling in their midst!

John 4:20-23

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and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place
where men ought to worship.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me,
an hour is coming when neither in this mountain
nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

But an hour is coming, **and now is**, when the
true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...

Remember the topic is *the place* of worship!

This woman would only later come to understand that she had stood with *the very Tabernacle* of God, the better *Place* of worship who had come to transform their worship.

A better place of worship

Jesus was the temporary Tabernacle of God come to His people.

Jesus has made us—His Church,
His body—to be the *present* temple of God.

John 4:23

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.”

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These worshipers are those who have been
born of the Spirit, have received the Spirit,
and who walk and worship by the Spirit!

These Spirit-born, Spirit-indwelled,
Spirit-empowered people; that is,
the Church, the body of Christ,
have been made to be the present
temple of the living God!

2 Corinthians 6:16

For **we are the temple of the living God**; just as God said,
"I will dwell in them and walk among them;
And I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Ephesians 2:21-22

...in [Christ Jesus] the whole building, being fitted together,
is growing into **a holy temple in the Lord**,
in whom you also are being built together
into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Jesus is always with us, but He is in our midst now, here, in a unique and mystical way as His holy temple.

Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, **I am there in their midst.**”

A better place of worship

Jesus was the temporary Tabernacle of God.

Jesus has made us, His Church, to be the present temple of God.

**Jesus will be the permanent Tabernacle
and future Temple of God.**

John 4:20-23

But **an hour is coming**, and now is,
when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...

Revelation 21:2-3

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down
out of heaven from God...and a voice saying:

“Behold, **the tabernacle of God** is among men,
and **He will dwell among them**, and they shall be
His people, and God Himself will be among them!

Jesus will be the permanent
Tabernacle, the permanent
dwelling of God among us!

He is also the future temple!

Revelation 21:22

I saw no temple in [the new Jerusalem],
for the Lord God the Almighty
and the Lamb are its temple.

He is also the future temple!

Revelation 21:22

I saw no temple in [the new Jerusalem],
for **the Lord God the Almighty**
and the Lamb are its temple.

Jesus is the Lamb, the future Temple
of the living God, the ultimate
and eternal *Place* of worship!

Where are you going for worship?

Radically Transformed Worship

A better place of worship

A better *basis* for worship



A better basis for worship

Based on a better knowledge

John 4:22

“You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we know,
for salvation is from the Jews.”

The Jews had a better knowledge
because they had a better Scripture.

John 4:23

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Our worship of God is now based on the knowledge that, because of Jesus' hour, we have become His children!

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave
the right to become **children** of God...

1 John 3:1

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us,
that we would be called **children** of God;
and such we are.

But notice also...

John 4:24

**“God is spirit, and those who worship Him
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“God is spirit, and **those who worship Him must worship in** spirit and **truth**.”

Our worship of God is now based on the knowledge of the truth of the gospel of God in Christ!

Jesus, the Word of God, has given
to us a better knowledge of God
leading to better worship of God!

A better basis for worship

Based on a better knowledge

Based on a better covenant

Remember the Prophetic Background

Ezekiel 37:26

I will make a *covenant* of peace with them;
it will be an everlasting *covenant* with them...

“Woman, believe me, **an hour is coming...**
but an hour is coming.”

What is this “hour”, and how does it
relate to the new covenant?

John 12:23 and 27

And Jesus answered them, saying,

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”

“Now My soul has become troubled;
and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from **this hour**’?”

But for this purpose I came to **this hour.**”

“This hour” is the hour of His death!

The hour of Jesus death was the hour in which He poured out His blood to establish the new and better covenant for us!

Luke 22:20

And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying,
“This cup which is poured out for you is **the new covenant in My blood.**”

Jesus was pointing this woman to the hour in which He would establish the promised better covenant, *the* better basis for true worship!

Upon what are you basing your worship?

Radically Transformed Worship

A better place of worship

A better basis for worship

A better *way* to worship



A better way to worship

Worship in ***spirit*** and truth

John 4:23-24

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when **the true**

**worshipers will worship the Father
in spirit and truth;**

for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

God is spirit, and those who worship Him
must worship in spirit and truth.”

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Why?

Because...

John 4:23-24

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Because...

John 4:23-24

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

God is spirit, **and those who worship Him**
must worship in spirit and truth.”

But what does it mean that God is spirit?

This means that God is not composed of any matter; He has no parts, no divisions, no dimensions and no limitations, especially in respect to locality.

Therefore, we ***must*** worship Him *in spirit!*

But what does this mean and imply?

It means that my inner man, *my soul* must hear, believe, enjoy, give thanks, honor, and love Him:

“Bless the LORD *O my soul*”.

It means that material, external worship is not enough; you must pray with your soul, sing with your soul, listen with your soul, worship with your soul.

It means that physical disability, isolation or confinement cannot keep you from true worship because true worship is not physical.

But what does this mean and imply?

It means that you must be *spiritual*;
you must be ***born of the Spirit!***

Jesus has made this new way
to worship possible by making
His people new!

A better way to worship

Worship in spirit and truth

Worship in spirit and ***truth***

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must worship in spirit and truth.”

Worship *in truth* is not something apart from worship *in spirit* because the Spirit cannot be separated from the truth.

There can be no true spiritual worship that is not worship in truth!

John 16:13

But when He, **the Spirit of truth**, comes,
He will guide you into all the truth.

John 16:13

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes,

He will guide you into all the truth.

Worship in spirit and truth is
worship *by* the Spirit of truth in
accordance *with* the truth.

This means that you cannot
worship without the truth!

Romans 1:25

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie,
and worshiped and served the creature rather than
the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Conclusion

Is Christ your true place of worship?

Are you worshiping on the basis of Christ and His blood shed for you?

Are you worshiping in the way God intends: in spirit and truth?