



Calvary of Albuquerque

What God Really Wants - John 4:20-24

From the Series, Believe:879

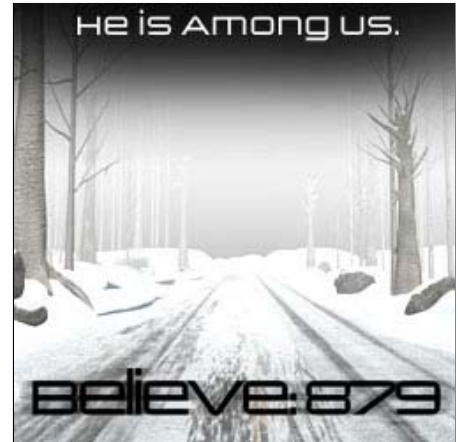
By Pastor Skip Heitzig

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Worship conferences, worship seminars and worship experiences abound within the landscape of the American church, but in all these there's something that seems to be always lacking—worship is confined to the activity of singing songs. When the subject is brought up in this chapter, Jesus talks plainly and openly about true worship: what it is and what it isn't. Let's explore these few verses to discover what God is seeking after and how to be part of fulfilling that.

OUTLINE

- I. Worship Can be Confusing
- II. Worship Can't be Confined
 - A. To a Single Place
 - B. To a Single Activity
- III. Worship Must be Candid
- IV. Worship Must be Credible
- V. Worship Will be Consequential



Talk Over These Things:

1. What two elements bring proper balance to worship? Describe the role of both of these in your own experience.
2. Read Psalm 51:15-17. What are the things that God is after in our worship?
3. How has your own personal spiritual upbringing (or non-spiritual upbringing) clouded your view of true, biblical worship?

DETAILED NOTES

There is no greater activity than the worship of God alone. AW Tozer called worship the missing jewel of the evangelical church. Worship is the dominant theme in scripture, mentioned over 400 times, 8 times in this text.

- I. Worship Can be Confusing
 - A. Samaritan woman confused by her sinful past
 1. Looks at life through the lens of her experience
 2. Until sin is dealt with, we are confused about worship
 - B. Samaritan woman confused by her background
 1. History of mixed race and mixed religion
(722 Bc Assyrians captured the northern kingdom, intermarriage of Jews with Assyrians and pagans, Samaritans offered to help rebuild the temple, rejected by Jews, Samaritans tried to stop with a letter [Nehemiah 4:2] and with an army, built their own temple on Mt. Gerazim, their temple destroyed in 129 BC, but still offer blood sacrifices on the mountain, only accepted the first five books of the Bible)
 - C. Our culture and upbringing shape our belief system
- II. Worship Can't be Confined
 - A. To a Single Place
 1. It's not where, it's whom (Acts 7:48)
 2. We think of God near or far spatially - not a building, seat or pilgrimage (Jeremiah 23:23)
 - B. To A Single Activity
 1. Not an event, a lifestyle
 2. Has to affect life
 3. Submission of lifestyle to God
 4. Your life is a gospel
- III. Worship Must be Candid

- A. Truthful, honest, whole-hearted
 - B. From your own human spirit - pneumati
 - C. From depth of heart, core being, who you really are (Matthew 15:8)
 - D. Not worship - right God, right manner, wrong attitude (Malachi 1:6-8, 1:12-13)
- IV. Worship Must be Credible
- A. In Truth
 - 1. Based on the truth God has revealed about Himself in the Word
 - 2. Tethered to God's truth
 - B. Failure in worship can be traced back to wrong thoughts about God
- V. Worship Will be Consequential
- A. Result of a relationship with God
 - B. True worshiper is a believer
 - C. Primary purpose of salvation not to make us happy or keep us out of punishment, but for God's glory.

Greek terms: pneumatic - spirit

Figures Referenced: AW Tozer, John Herkanus, Charles Spurgeon, George Smith, Stephen Charnock, Martin Luther, John Calvin

Publications Referenced: "The Source" by James Michener

Cross References: Psalm 15:1-7, Ezra 4, Nehemiah 4:2, Jeremiah 23:23, Malachi 1:6-8, 1:12-13, Matthew 15:8, Acts 7:48