

In Spirit & In Truth
John 4:19-26

- I. The Woman's Question: In the O.T. where you worshiped was a big deal.
- A. Deut 12:5-7 *But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; 6 there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. 7 There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you. vv 13-14 Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings anywhere you please. 14 Offer them only at the place the LORD will choose in one of your tribes...v 17 you must not eat in your own towns the tithe of your grain and new wine and oil...v 18 Instead, you are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place the LORD your God will choose.*
 - B. Ultimately the, place God chose was Jerusalem. This is vividly seen in 2 Chron 7:1-3
 - C. Under the O.C. God's people assembled for worship and sacrifice at the temple where God's Spirit dwelt.
 - 1. It was where heaven and earth intersected.
 - 2. Where man came up to seek God's blessing and Give God praise
 - 3. Where God came down to bless
- II. In order to appreciate Jesus Answer we need to recognize that in his gospel, John shows that Jesus has come to replace the temple.
- A. He is the ladder that connects heaven & earth John 1:51 *"I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*
 - B. His body is the new temple 2:19-21 *Jesus said to them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body.*
 - C. Jesus is the mediator John 14:6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
 - 1. Though this statement includes the idea of going to heaven when you die.
 - 2. The main point that Jesus is making here is that while we live in this world, the way we have access to the Father is through Jesus.
 - D. This helps us make sense of why Jesus says that the "hour is coming" (v.21) in which worship at the temple will be obsolete.
 - 1. In John's gospel, the "hour": frequently refers to the death and resurrection of Jesus e.g. John 17:1 *Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You.*
 - 2. Jesus' death and resurrection, would do away with the need for a man made temple:
 - a. His body becomes the once for all a sacrifice
 - b. His body becomes the temple where we meet w/ God.

- III. This sheds light on the meaning of the terms Jesus used “Spirit” and “truth”.
- A. For John, “truth” describes realities that Jesus brings into being.
1. The word truth occurs fifty times in John. Its pervasive meaning contrasts truth with the typology of the Mosaic law, e.g.:
 - a. John 1:17-18 *For the law was given through Moses, but grace and **truth** came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him,*
 - b. John 6:32-33 *Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the **true** bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*
 2. In the context “truth” is not that which is scriptural vs. that which is false, but is the reality vs. the shadow.
 - a. Heb 8:1-2 *Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the **true** tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.*
 - b. Heb 9:24 *For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the **true** one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.*
- B. The statement that *God is Spirit* refers to the manner in which He relates to Man.
1. Comp. w/God is love & God is light (explains how he relates to us, not what he’s made of)
 2. In scripture spirit has to do with *power, animation, life, presence*
 3. It also has to do with the manner in which God *indwells* and *relates* to mankind and the manner in which God empowers us to *relate* to Him.
 - a. God presents himself to man by *His Spirit*. Eph 2:19-22 *You are...members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*
 - b. God brings man into His presence by *His Spirit*.
 - (1) Ezek 43:5 ***The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.***
 - (2) Luke says of Simeon 2:27 *So he came **by the Spirit** into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law*
 - (3) Rev 4:2 *I was **in the Spirit**; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.*
 - c. Phil 3:3 *For it is we who are the circumcision, we who **worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus.***
 - (1) True Spiritual Worship is trinitarian in nature. We worship the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit.
 - (2) The Father is the destination, Jesus is the road that takes us there and the Spirit is the car we ride in.

IV. Points to take away:

- A. The emphasis in N.C. Worship is no longer place and procedure, but *person* and *presence*.
- B. There is only one place where God can be worshiped acceptably.
 1. In Christ (the true tabernacle) and By the Spirit .
 2. But the Spirit will no longer be bound to one geographic location, but is present wherever there are Christians.
 - a. He dwells in Christians
 - b. He especially dwells in the church - *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are (1 Cor 3:16-17).*
- C. This means that Jesus has opened up a way for us to access the throne of God. Heb 10:19-25 *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
 1. Therefore we are encouraged to:
 - a. **Enter the most holy place w/ confidence** (v 21,22).
 - (1) not confidence in self, and our procedures.
 - (2) but confidence in the all sufficiency of Jesus.
 - b. **Hold fast to our hope** (v. 23).
 - (1) the world may be shaken, but God's throne is secure.
 - (2) Jesus is established forever as priest & king - His enemies will fall.
 - c. **Continue meeting together and encourage one another** (v.25)
 - (1) the assembly presents the realities of heaven to us.
 - (2) the assembly is a time to remind, encourage and build up.
 2. Let us do so.