

**John 4:20-24** "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."

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

**22** "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

**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.

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

# What does it mean to worship the Father in spirit and truth?

- Many say that it means...
  - To worship God from the heart (“in spirit”)
  - To worship God as he directs in his Word (“and truth”)

- The time was coming when...
  - Worship would not be defined by its location (though the Jews had been correct)
  - True worshipers would worship the Father in spirit and truth
- Jesus contrasted OT worship and NT worship.

Somehow OT worship had not  
been “in spirit and truth.”

- God required the Jews to
  - worship from the heart – Deut. 6:4-7
  - worship as directed by His Word – Deut 5:32-33

# Worshipping God in Spirit

- To offer “spiritual” worship
  - John 4:24
    - “God is Spirit...”
    - The worship of God is to be in spirit (i.e., spiritual).
- A worship was coming that was more in keeping with God’s nature.

# Worshipping God in Spirit

- Heb. 9:1-10
- Appeals to the physical senses of man
  - A physical structure (tabernacle)
  - Special priesthood, clothing for priests
  - Lamp stands, burning incense
  - Instruments of music
  - Feast days

# Worshipping God in Spirit

- NT worship is geared toward the spiritual side of man.
  - God's temple is now spiritual, made up of Christians – 1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:19-22
  - All Christians are priests, offering spiritual sacrifices – 1 Pet. 2:4-9

# Worshipping God in Spirit

- Spiritual acts of worship
  - Our prayers are as sweet incense – Rev. 5:8
  - Our music is making melody with the heart, not with a harp – Eph. 5:19
  - Our partaking of the Lord's Supper – Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:16-17
- Spiritual sacrifices of praise and service – Heb. 13:15; Rom. 12:1-2

# Worshipping God in Spirit

- The emphasis is on the spirit of man, not to man's physical senses.

# Worshipping God in Truth

- To offer true “real” worship
  - To worship according to the commands of God.
- What is the contrast between worship that was and worship that now is?
  - Was not between true and false worship
  - Was between that which is true (real) and that which had been a shadow.

# Worshipping God in Truth

- Real worship as opposed to shadow (symbol) worship
- The tabernacle was a symbol – Heb. 9:8-9
- The Law was a shadow – Heb. 10:1

# Worshipping God in Truth

- Christ is now in the true tabernacle (Heaven) – Heb 9:11-12
- The contrast of OT and NT worship
  - OT worship, which was but a shadow, was physical in nature
  - NT worship is according to the true realities and is therefore more spiritual in nature

# Worshipping God Today

- Not all worship is acceptable
  - Vain worship – Mat. 15:7-9
  - Ignorant worship – Acts 17:22-23
  - Will worship – Col. 2:20-23
  - Carnal worship
    - e.g., instrumental music, burning incense, clapping
    - Appealing to the flesh rather than the spirit

# Worshipping God Today

- God seeks true worshippers
  - Seeking to engage the mind rather than the body
  - Content with the simplicity of worship that stresses the spiritual side of man
  - Not desiring to return to carnal ordinances
  - Who can worship God anywhere, anytime with true spiritual worship – Acts 16:25

Remember...

“...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.

**John 4:23**