

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for May 15-16, 2004**

**"Worshiping God in Spirit"**

**John 4:20-23**

The passage that we began to examine several weeks ago records for us Christ's interaction with a Samaritan woman (John 4:1-26).

We have examined the request that Christ made of this Samaritan woman in John 4:1-9.

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We have examined the offer that Christ made to this Samaritan woman in John 4:10-14.

And finally we have examined Christ's insight into the Samaritan woman's encounters with various men (John 4:15-19).

This weekend we will examine the instruction of Christ to the Samaritan woman about worship (John 4:20-26).

The disclosure of certain personal details about the Samaritan woman's life turned her attention from the gift that Christ was offering to the identity of the person offering the gift.

The Samaritan woman introduced a long-standing theological conflict between the Jews and Samaritans primarily, but not entirely, to gain more personal insight into Jesus (John 4:20).

Both Jews and Samaritans recognized that God intended them to worship in a certain place (Deuteronomy 12:5).

Though the Jews and Samaritans agreed that God intended them to worship in a certain place, they disagreed about where that place should be.

Rather than being drawn into the argument between the Samaritans and the Jews, Jesus chose rather to use the woman's statement as an opportunity to communicate certain basic truths.

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The first basic truth Jesus chose to communicate was the impending obsolescence of the temple in Jerusalem and Mount Gerizim as definitive places of worship (John 4:21).

The word "hour" in John's Gospel always points to the hour of Christ's cross or events related to Christ's cross (John 16:32).

Christians, through the once for all sacrifice of Christ, have been set free from the Old Testament sacrificial system and are therefore set free from a definitive place of worship (Hebrews 10:8-12).

The second basic area of truth was though Gerizim and Jerusalem would pass away as definitive places of worship, they certainly were not on an equal plane (John 4:22).

The third basic area of truth that Jesus chose to introduce was the essential nature of worship (John 4:23-24).

True worshipers are not those who go to a particular worship site but rather those who worship God in spirit and truth.

When Jesus speaks of worshiping in spirit, He is talking about the human spirit. Jesus wants us to know that worship must be sincere and not just simply lip service.

God does not regard our voices, He hears our hearts, and if our hearts do not sing, we have not sung at all.