

RCMI L-Path Teaching

April 30, 2023

TITLE: Empowered For True Worship

TEXT: John 4: 23-24

Big Idea: True worship is to engage our whole being, body, soul, and our 'Holy Spirit empowered' spirit, in glorifying God as a response to all that He is in gratitude and praise.

Introduction

- Worship is the direct expression of our ultimate purpose of living. It is the outward display of our inward belief.
- God initiates worship by revealing Himself to us, and we respond through worship.
- *"23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*
-John 4:23-24, NIV

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUE WORSHIP

John 4:23 "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."

In Jesus' discussion with the Samaritan woman, the Lord makes it clear that worship was and is an issue of the heart.

A. What is True Worship?

- Worship is more than just a church service, singing, and prayer. Worship is all that we are responding to all that He is in gratitude and praise.
- The Greek word used for "worship" implies an attitude of reverence. It also includes such physical gestures as kissing the hand or kneeling ([Psalm 95:6](#)).
- We worship something when we act as if it has value.

B. God seeks true worshipers for what worship does for us.

1. We become like what we worship.
 - This is one reason why idolatry is so hideous. In ancient times and even today, a man takes his worst vices (alcohol, drugs, gambling, hobbies, etc) and worships them.
 - If you make a god out of vices, then you worship your god through those vices.
2. Anything we love more, fear more, serve more, or honor more than our Heavenly Father is an idol.
3. The more we worship God, the more like Him we become.
 - We become like whom we spend time with.

C. God seeks true worshipers for what worship does for Him.

1. Our worship gives God pleasure.

2. God wants us to think of Him as Father.

- We may not understand all about the omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence of God, but we can know Him as Father.
- A father wants love. There may be those who can sing better, teach better, preach better, or who have more knowledge, but there is no one who can love God better than you can if you worship Him in spirit and in truth.

II. INSTRUCTION FOR TRUE WORSHIP

John 4:23-24 NIV “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

A. Not all worship is accepted.

- The worship of the Samaritans with all their zeal was not accepted. The worship of the Jews and their dead orthodoxy was not accepted. The way of worship is both zeal and truth.
- Jesus was saying it's not about geography and location, it's about how you come to God, and it's not based on who you are, it's based on whom you come through.

B. True worshipers do not worship to be seen but to connect with God.

1. In Spirit -this refers to the heart of the worshiper. Worship must be spiritual. Worship must come from our innermost being; it has to come from our spirit. If our spirit is dead or warped, then we can't truly worship. To worship in spirit, a person must be saved.

2. In Truth – Worship must be real. Worship is not entertainment. It is not done to be seen. It is authentic and genuine. It has nothing to do with us or others. But has everything to do with God.

C. There is subjective worship and objective worship in truth, and both go together.

- “If we worship only in spirit, we'll blow up. If we worship only in truth, we'll dry up. If we worship in spirit and truth, we'll grow up.” – Adrian Rogers
- There must be the Holy Spirit and the human spirit combined with the truth of God's Word.

CHALLENGE

- “True worship is to engage our whole being led by our ‘Spirit-empowered’ spirit, in glorifying God as a response to all that He is in gratitude and awe.”- RC
- When we truly worship, the invisible God is at work doing invisible and powerful things.

DISCUSSION

1. How is your personal worship to God?
2. What are the things you do to show God that you are worshipping Him? Share.
3. Based on what you have learned, what is a true worshiper?

