

# The Gospel of John

4:16-26

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.

If you will remember last week, Jesus had stopped in a town of Samaria to rest at Jacob's well. When Jesus got there, there was also a woman there as well. Jesus starting talking to her as He asked her for a drink of water, which opened up the conversation for Jesus to tell her about living water or eternal life. But the woman just didn't seem to get it, with her last statement that we read last week being.

✠ **John 4:15** *The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."*

This week we will continue on with the conversation between Jesus and this woman.

✠ **John 4:16-18** *Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."*

If Jesus knew she was married five times and was currently living with a man, why would He say to her? **"Go, call your husband, and come here."**

Remember this woman was so caught up in the things of the world that Jesus needed her to realize that these things were preventing her from understanding what He was talking about.

Some say that the woman at this point was flirting with Jesus by saying, **"I have no husband"**. I don't know if it's true, but it is possible. Here is Jesus wanting to save this woman from her sins and along comes satan to try and stop it by tempting Jesus with a woman. After all, no one else was around, who would know?

That is one of satan's ploys to get us to fall into temptation, he will say, *"No one will ever find out. Just go ahead."* Or *"God will forgive you, so go ahead, then ask for His forgiveness"*.

But no matter where you are, or who is not there, there is one who is always there and He sees all things, and that is God.

† **Psalms 139:1-8** *O LORD, You have searched me and known me.  
You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
You understand my thought afar off.  
You comprehend my path and my lying down,  
And are acquainted with all my ways.  
For there is not a word on my tongue,*

*But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.  
You have hedged me behind and before,  
And laid Your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
It is high, I cannot attain it.  
Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?  
If I ascend into heaven, You are there;  
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

So next time you are alone with that man or woman and think no one is looking, or you are sitting with that bottle of alcohol, or smoking that pot, or have those drugs, or you are watching or reading pornography, remember God can see everything you are doing. You cannot hide your sins for they will always find you out.

† **Num 32:23** *But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.*

Even in the book of Genesis, we read of a young, handsome man named Joseph, who was tempted by a beautiful woman, who was his boss's wife. Remember she would continually ask Joseph to sleep with her, but he refused. Finally, one day she asked all the servants to leave so that Joseph and her were alone, and once again she tempts Joseph, and his reply to her many advances was.

† **Gen 39:9** *"There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"*

"How can I sin against God" A good question to ask yourself next time you are thinking of sinning!

So Jesus' reply to her advances was.

✠ *Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' 'for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."*

He wasn't throwing this in her face, but wanted her to realize that she has been so caught up in trying to find love through men, and the things of the world, and how her attempts were getting her nowhere, other than falling deeper and deeper into sin. I think at this point her eyes were starting to open to the truth as she replies with.

✠ **John 4:19-20** *The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."*

She is now taking her eyes off of worldly things and is now looking at spiritual things. Throughout the conversation, she is seeing Jesus in a new light, or the Light of the world that He is.

She has reached the point that she believes that Jesus is a prophet, but also she knows she was caught not telling the whole story. Because she didn't say that she was living with a man or that she was married five times before. Her sins are now exposed to the light and she has two options at this point, either run or seek forgiveness.

We know she didn't run, because she stayed there and answered Jesus. But her answer was meant to stop the conversation in its tracks. Look again at the second thing she says.

***"Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."***

She knew that Jesus was a Jew and the Jews believed that Jerusalem was the place to worship God. But the Samaritans believed that there in Mt Gerizim, was the place to worship God. She was expecting Jesus to say that Jerusalem was the place to worship. She would then disagree and the conversation would be over. At least that was what she expected, but that's not what she got.

✠ ***John 4:21-24 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."***

Jesus did not give up on this woman, because He knew He could save her from her sins. Jesus doesn't give up on you either. He knows that He died for you and all the sins you have, and will commit. He knew what you did last night, a week ago, ten years ago and even today. But still He loves you and will forgive you; all you have to do is ask Him. Even if you are a Christian and have fallen away or backslidden, Jesus is waiting to except you with open arms. But you must come to Him. Are you ready to?

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

Remember that the Jews believed that Jerusalem was the place to worship God, but the Samaritans believed that there in Mt Gerizim, was the place to worship God.

But Jesus is giving her a revelation from God. What was the revelation? That you don't have to be in a specific place to worship God.

How many times do we feel that we have to be at church to worship God, or have to have the pastor pray for us before God will hear our request?

The truth is that you can worship God right where you are, in your own house, in your car, out on the street, in the mountains or where ever you want.

God is not restricted to a building, and neither should our worship.

- † **Acts 17:24** *God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.*
- † **1 Tim 2:8** *I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;*
- † **2 Chron 2:6a** *But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him?*

We cannot put God in a small box or a little building, for none of them can contain Him!

Jesus goes on to say:

✎ *You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.*

False religions, they are everywhere. But the truth is that people don't really know what they worship, because they add to, and take away from the rules they make up all the time.

† **Matt 5:17-18** *Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

Jesus did not come to change the law or God's word, but He came to explain and fulfill God's word.

† **Matt 5:17** *Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.*

Do you know what or whom you worship?

How do you know?

- What do you spend the most time doing, or what or who do you spend the most time with?
- Do you sit for hours in front of the TV and maybe spend five minutes with God?
- Do you spend hours getting ready to go out somewhere like dinner and a movie, and only minutes getting ready to go to God's house?
- When times are tough, who do you turn to, or what are you depending on to get you out of that trouble.
- What consumes your thoughts throughout the day?

Simple questions, but if the answer to any of these is something other than God, then that is what you worship.

Ask the Lord to show you what you put before Him, and then ask Him to forgive you and may you always put God first in all things in your life.

✠ ***But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.***

So how do we worship God in spirit and in truth?

Actually the answer is simpler than you may think. It's to worship in God's way, not ours. Remember that God's word is truth so we must worship according to His word. We could do many studies on worshipping God, but let's look at just a few examples. Jesus gave an example of this to the Pharisees.

✠ ***Mark 7:5-13 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:  
'This people honors Me with their lips,  
But their heart is far from Me.  
And in vain they worship Me,  
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'  
"For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban--' (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."***

How often do we do this? Maybe you like the old hymns and say that this is true worship, where others like the new worship songs in the church.

Who are we to judge what songs, whether old or new that someone should worship God with?

Maybe there are certain rituals that happen in your church. Are these man made or commanded by God in His word?

If they are manmade we are not obligated to follow them.

But if God's word says to, then we are obligated to follow them according to God's word.

An example would be going into a Catholic church and dipping your fingers in holy water and making the sign of the cross. The Bible does not teach this at all, this is a manmade ritual.

On the other hand, people argue about baptism. Jesus said to be baptized, therefore we are to be baptized because God's word says to.

What about tithing? Tithing is an Old Testament command given to the children of Israel.

But we are to give the Lord our all, not just 10%.

So do you give all your money to God?

God doesn't want what you don't want to give.

God would rather have you give 1% happily because you want to rather than 10% because you think you have to.

God doesn't place a percentage on what we should give; He just asks that we give joyfully. If you are worried that you won't have enough after giving to God, then you are not giving willfully and you are not trusting in God.

† **Ex 25:1-2** *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering."*

So don't try to worship like others do, or the way man tells you to. Make sure your worship is in the way God says to in His word.

† **Gal 1:10 (NLT)** *Obviously, I'm not trying to be a people pleaser! No, I am trying to please God. If I were still trying to please people, I would not be Christ's servant.*

† **Heb 11:5-6** *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

† **Heb 13:16** *But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

So the woman's response to all of this was:

✎ **John 4:25** *The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."*

Remember the last thing the woman called Jesus?

✎ **John 4:19** *The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.*

Prophets proclaim God's word and she knew this, but she wasn't taking just the words of a spokesperson, she was waiting for God to come and speak Himself.

✎ **John 4:26** *Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."*

People say that Jesus never proclaimed to be the Messiah or God.

Maybe they should read this verse. In fact, the original Greek reads as: "I am, that speaks to you"

Remember "I AM" means God and only God.

So Jesus is proclaiming to be the Messiah and God in one sentence.

God also proclaimed this in the book of Isaiah:

† **Isaiah 43:10** *"You are My witnesses," says the LORD,  
"And My servant whom I have chosen,  
That you may know and believe Me,  
And understand that I am He.  
Before Me there was no God formed,  
Nor shall there be after Me."*

And Jesus mentions it again further ahead in chapter 8.

† **John 8:24** *"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."*

Next week we continue with the disciples returning and the woman going to tells others in Samaria what was going on.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy!