Intro: 19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on 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 the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” 25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

1. The Theme of the Gospel of John: "The \_\_Word\_\_ Became Flesh"

2. The Purpose of the Gospel of John: "That We May \_\_Believe\_\_\_

*"Having recognized the position of the Word to world, John reveals Christ purpose in the world. "He was in the beginning because He is God", He was in the beginning before the first words were mentioned, and He is at the beginning of all things. Genesis 1:1 prepared the way for the account of Him with God in the world activity which appears in the following section: "All things came into being through Him”*.

I. Jesus is the center of our worship – 19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

a. She sensed that Jesus was a prophet

• Jesus had confronted her about her sin. So, she could either respond or react. She could have reacted:

° out in anger ° arguing

° ignoring ° counting it as foolishness

° neglecting

b. She sensed her sin needed to be taken care of before she could truly worship

• Where was she to worship? There was a dispute at this time, where God’s presence was? Was it on the Mountain where He revealed Himself to their fathers, or in the temple where He meets once a year. She was under a powerful conviction. She knew that she had to worship God, to make sacrifices for her sin. When a person is stirred up and convicted, they will respond one of two ways: with a willingness to recognize and change, or with unwillingness to accept and not change.

II. The place of worship is not what is important – 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

a. Note the phrase “the hour is coming”

• Jesus uses the Prophet title to prophesy the coming time (hour is coming) when the whole nature of worship will change. The way mankind approaches God, they way we sing, the way we sacrifice, the way we pray, everything and anything that has to do with worshipping God is going to change forever.

° But just as the whole landscape of how we worship changed there are somethings the lord kept in place. If you enter into the presence of the Lord be holy, accept the sacrifice of the Lamb, pray in the Spirit, live righteously, walk worthy, and worship respectfully.

b. The place of worship is not what is important

• Yes, I’m using the point twice for effect. The place of worship will no longer be in dispute; the location will no longer be an issue. Even the place of worship is going to change. The place is no longer going to be in a building or on a mountain, but it’s going to be universal, in every believer there will be the Holy Spirit teaching, guiding, and preparing us for universal, worldwide, everywhere presence, worship with the one True God.

° “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple” 1 Cor. 3:16-17

° “in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” Eph. 2:21

c. What is important is the Who of worship

• A person may be in the temple worshipping, and yet worshipping the Triune God – “You worship what you don’t know” (v. 22). We sing, lift our hands, and we don’t know the true meaning of worship. It’s not what we sing, but who we sing to, it’s not how high we lift our high hands, but who we lift our hands too. It’s not how we preach, soft or loud, it’s who we preach to others about. Going through the motions is not worship, it’s acting.

III. Our worshipping Christ came through the Jews – You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

a. Our worshipping Christ has salvation as a part of that worship

• The word “salvation” has a definite article with it “the salvation”. The Word, The Lamb, The Living Water, who is the salvation of all men, came through the Jews first. Meaning that Christ came through the Jews and presented the only way to salvation, that is by Himself Jesus Christ. If you’re going to worship God you need to be saved.

° 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:8-11

b. Christ Identified Himself as a Jew – “we worship what we know”

• Jesus did not come from Africa, or some other country as some cults teach. Scripture is clear, Christ came into this world through the Jewish nation, presented Himself to the Jews first, then was presented to all mankind as our Savior and Lord. Anything less is false teaching and false doctrine.

c. Salvation comes from the Jewish nation

1. Men are ignorant of God Himself

2. Men are ignorant of Jesus Christ

• Just because Jesus came to the Jews and salvation was presented to the Jews does not mean that they accept it. For to this day the only thing that the Jews will accept anything related to Christ is the Christians money to go see the Christ memorials. They have the true religion and the true form of worship; and the Messiah*,* who will bring salvation, is to proceed from them. Jesus thus affirms that the Jews had the true form of God. At the same time, He was reasonable, how much they had degraded Him, and several times He criticized them for it.

° 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. John 1:10, 11

IV. True worshippers worship God in the Spirit and in truth - 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” 25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

a. Jesus changed the way we worship – “But the hour is coming, and is now here”

• Jesus changed how we worship. Before they would worship on mountains, in synagogues, in the temple, on altars. So, since Christ came the location is meaningless. We have an open-door policy to the throne of God. Our worship can be in a church, in a car, on a desert road, in your garden, in a hospital, on a mountain, anywhere the presence of God is there you can worship Him. Remember He is omnipresent.

b. Jesus changed the nature of our worship – “when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth”

1. We are to worship God in spirit

• We should have the spiritual drive and the ability to seek the most intimate communion and fellowship with God.

• We should have at our core being to trust and rest in God’s acceptance, love, and care.

2. We are to worship God in truth

• We are to approach God in the right way. There is only one way and that is through His Son Jesus Christ – “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” - John 14:6.

• We are to worship God with sincerity and truthfully. Not coming in with a half-hearted, wandering mind, sleepy eyes, playing on our cell phone during service. We are in the presence of the ALL-MIGHTY GOD, an y thing less than our best in not respectable.

c. Note the reason for true worship – “for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.”

• If God is seeking for true worshippers, then the question is, where are they? Will you find them in an atheist class, a school that teaches there is no God, in a bar that does not think of Jesus unless Carrie Underwood is singing “Jesus take the wheel”? Where would you find true worshippers?