



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Worthy: Worthy & Worship”

Ps. Kevin York – Nov. 23, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What is something that you own that is smaller than a shoe box and that you highly value?
- What is either the smallest or the largest gift you've ever received?
- What is the most meaningful gift you have ever received?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org/media/>

John 4:1-26 ESV Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. And he had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 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. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 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." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

All humans worship. We assign value to things and give devotion to those things we value most. Worship is the expression of our hearts toward the things we value most. Our glory then becomes that which comes from placing the highest value on something. Sadly, many people are themselves the object of their worship, for they value themselves, their desires, and their ideas above everything else.

We eventually make great demands on the things we value most. This happens when we find ourselves in great need. It is often in the season of crisis that we discover whether that which we value most can deliver us and provide us with what we desperately need. This is a main reason why people come to Christ in times of crisis. It is because other things in which they trusted or which they valued most cannot deliver them or meet their need in crisis. But people discover that God does indeed meet us in our crisis. He alone is worthy of our highest esteem.

Misplaced Worship

Many are like the Samaritans, misplacing their worship. They customized their worship instead of following Scripture, but didn't have God. The woman at the well had a messed up life and a syncretistic religious belief. It brought her no profit for her soul or her life. There was no personal or communal relationship with God. We must learn from these negative examples. Instead, we must worship in spirit and truth. Scripture is God's gift to us so that we may know the truth; that is, that we may know God and worship him according to the truth.

Heartless Worship

What you worship will be reflected in your life. It will become your glory, whether for honor or for dishonor. For there are those who engage in the external life of church, but their hearts do not value God above everything else. They engage in the formalities of the church's worship, but their hearts are far from God. Their true worship is directed toward those other things which they value more than anything else. In essence, these things are nothing less than idols. The human heart captured by an idol can never express true worship to the living God. Scripture reveals God as great, majestic, beautiful, holy, and loving. If we will believe God's witness about himself and will choose to rightfully value him above all else, we will then naturally begin to express true, heartfelt worship to God.

True Worship

True worship is not mastering the art of worship, but rather is being mastered by the object of our worship, namely God himself. True worship is of the heart, in spirit and truth. It can express itself in a myriad of ways through various cultures and various personalities. True worship can only arise from a heart that is surrendered to God. Is your heart fully surrendered to God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- Is Christ the center of your life? Can you identify any sign that you are wandering from him?
- What changes do you need to make in your lifestyle to better reflect the glory of Jesus Christ on a daily basis?
- What do you plan to do to deepen your devotion to Christ?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would help us rightly discern what we each value most, and whether there is anything that we value more than him.
- Repent of anything you may have valued more than God, and/or reaffirm God as the one whom you value above everything and everyone else.
- Ask God if there is anything you need to do to practically reaffirm God's place as number one in your life.