

**EVERYDAY CHURCH: Trusting Jesus Through Worship<sup>i</sup>**  
**John 4:19-24**

**WELCOME:**

Good morning, Trinity! It is good to see you this morning. And I want to say a special welcome to those of you that are guests with us this morning. We are thrilled you have joined us today.

We love to connect with guests. You can help us know about your time with us today in a couple of different ways. You can text the keyword, TBCMP, which stands for Trinity Baptist Church Mt. Pleasant, to the number 94-000. When you send that keyword to that number, you will be sent a link back that is safe to click on. It will take you to a short form. When you fill out and submit that form, it notifies us and we look forward to the opportunity to connect with you.

Or you can stop by Guest Connect located in the main lobby just outside the worship center. We have a team of people that would love to meet you and give you a small gift as a token of thanks for you being here with us today. Even if you text in, stop by Guest Connect and pick up your gift. We are so glad you are here today.

**VETERAN'S DAY RECOGNITION:**

Tomorrow is Veteran's Day. It is a national holiday to reflect on the heroism of those who have served our country in our armed forces. It is a day to recognize and honor men and women who have fought to protect and defend our freedom. It is a time for us to show our respect for those who have served us.

So, I want to ask those of you here today that are currently serving or have served in our armed forces to please stand so that we can recognize and honor you. Let's give these heroes a round of applause!

On behalf of our church, thank you for serving. Thank you for sacrificing. We honor you today and tomorrow as a way of saying thanks. You may be seated.

**FOSTER AND ADOPTION RECOGNITION:**

I want to take this opportunity to also recognize another group of heroes. November is recognized as National Adoption Awareness Month. It is also a month where we get to recognize foster parents. This month is an opportunity to invite our church to not only pray for these families, but to consider how God

might be urging us to play a part. You've already heard from Jenn Tosh this morning, but you know, adoption and caring for orphans is central to the Bible. Scripture calls those of us who are in Christ, adopted into God's family. And James says that true and undefiled religion is caring for orphans and widows. As the Church of Jesus, we cannot turn a blind eye to the call to engage in ministry in this arena.

It may not be that God is calling you to be a foster family, maybe He is, but at the very least, we can be a support to families who are answering that call. If you'd like to know how you can play a part, stop by and see Jenn in the lobby.

But what I'd like to do right now is recognize and pray over our foster and adoptive families. If you are here this morning and you are a foster family, or you have adopted children will you please stand? Can we give these folks a round of applause?

Thank you. I want to ask you to stay standing. Because you have entered into the hard spaces of this kind of ministry, I want you to know that you have a church that loves and supports you. And I want to take a little time out to pray over you this morning. So, as you are willing and able, if there is a family close by you, would you just surround them and pray for them. Others of us can reach out a hand toward these families and pray. Let's take a moment to pray over them and then I will lead us in a corporate prayer over these families.  
 [PRAY]

Thank you so much. You can be seated. And again, Church Family, we all can play a part in ministering here. Please stop by and visit with Jenn. And thank you for being a supportive church.

**SERIES INTRODUCTION:**

Today we are continuing our teaching series we've called, "Everyday Church: Refocusing on the Vision of The Church." Last week, we invited you in on a conversation we have been having about where The Lord is leading us. We talked about how the example of the early Church leads us to see that church is really all about leveraging the everyday of our lives. We talked about how prayer was foundational and how it fueled the launch of the Church. We discussed the importance of seeing corporate worship services as halftime, not gametime. And we talked about how The Church is to be driven by a clear and biblical vision.

Today, we are building on that discussion by zooming in on the topic of worship. An everyday church is a church that understands what true worship is all about.

So, I want to invite you to turn with me in your Bibles to the gospel of John. Chapter 4 is one of the most definitive discussions Jesus has on the topic of worship. Allow me to set the stage for us of what is happening in John 4.

### **BACKGROUND TEACHING:**

Jesus and His disciples were beginning to gain followers. John The Baptizer points to Jesus as The Messiah and John's disciples begin following Jesus. All this caught the attention of the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day. And they were not happy about it.

So, Jesus and His disciples leave Judea and head for Galilee. Now, the typical route from Judea to Galilee would cause them to avoid a region called Samaria. But Jesus purposes to go through Samaria.

And there He has a divine appointment and meets a woman coming to the well to draw water in the heat of the day. And Jesus, again breaking with tradition, sparks a conversation with this lady. And there are many components to the conversation, and most of them we don't have time to dive into today. But, the conversation ultimately comes to the topic of worship.

See, the Jews and the Samaritans had sharp disagreements, especially on the subject of religion. Samaritans only believed in the first 5 books of the Bible, called the Pentateuch. So, they did not believe that there were prophets like those who wrote much of the Old Testament. But they did believe that a Messiah was coming, a greater Moses. But because of their views, they believed that true worship was to be held on Mount Gerizim. That is the location where Abraham built an altar and was the place where Joshua led the Israelites when they entered the Promised Land.

But the Jews believed that Jerusalem was the proper place of worship. After all, King David acquired land there and the tabernacle was situated there. Later, David's son, Solomon built the Temple there.

So, there was this sharp disagreement between the two sides as to who was right. And Jesus, as He often does, steps into the conversation and shows that

both sides have skewed views and there is a way higher than our typical understanding.

This is where we pick up the story in John 4. Let's read it together and then dive into how it speaks to our topic today. *<sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman [that's a term of endearment], believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and **those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth**."*

### **MESSAGE:**

The first thing we see here is that...

#### **1) Worship is an everyday practice.**

There are a couple of statements Jesus makes to this point. He says in verse 21 that worship is not locational when He says, *"the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."* In other words, worship isn't tied to a specific place. Then, in verse 24, Jesus says that worship is something that is done in spirit and in truth. The idea that Jesus is communicating is that **worship is not an event we attend, in a specific place; it's a lifestyle we live.** And that is an everyday practice.

The word, "worship" is mentioned in this passage 9 times. And each time it is the same word. The word in the original language literally means, "to show reverence to."<sup>ii</sup> The way this was carried out was that a person would fall down before a superior and kiss the ground in front of them.<sup>iii</sup> It is to acknowledge and ascribe worth to someone or something. That's what worship is. And that can be done anywhere at any time. I would go further to say that it is something we do all the time.

When God created humanity, He designed us to worship. The intent that we would desire to worship Him. But, since the fall, since sin entered the world, our hearts have pursued the worship of other things. We tend to ascribe worth to the created over the Creator. Our fallen nature tends to pursue possessions,

people, power, and positions over and above our pursuit of God. For the woman at the well, we see this played out. In the previous verses Jesus tells her to call her husband. She says she has no husband. And then Jesus tells her that He knows that. In fact, she's had 5 husbands and the one she is currently living with is not her husband. What's Jesus saying? He is exposing the fact that this lady is worshiping relationships. She's trying to find fulfillment in things other than her Creator.

And it is true of us. It is possible to worship things over and above God. We can assign more worth to the pursuit of things than to the pursuit of God. And in that way, we constantly worship something.

I can't remember when I came across this definition of worship, I think I was in seminary. But I've heard the definition of worship as, "Focusing our heart's affection and our mind's attention on who God is and what He has done for us." I like that definition. And it fits with what Jesus is communicating about worship in John 4. We can focus our heart's affection and our mind's attention on God every day. Or we can focus our heart's affection and our mind's attention on other things.

Romans 12:1 and 2 tells us how we can ensure that our worship is centered on The Lord. Paul says, "*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as **a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is **your spiritual worship**.* *<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*" Paul is saying that spiritual worship, remember Jesus said true worship is in spirit and truth, so spiritual worship is carried out in being a living sacrifice.

What is interesting here is the picture of a living sacrifice. It seems like an oxymoron. Sacrifices in first century were not living. If an animal was sacrificed, he was no longer living. But Paul is saying we are to live and sacrifice and that is our act of worship. In other words, worship is more than music or rituals; it's a lifestyle of obedience, humility and devotion to God. Every day.

So, the question then becomes, what does worship look like in our lives today? Our next two points this morning will flesh that out a little bit. So, we've discovered that worship is an everyday practice. Secondly, ...

## 2) Corporate worship is a priority.

When I say corporate worship, I am referring to the gathering of Christ followers together to praise and worship God as a community. This is a corporate worship service. We've gathered here this morning to exalt Jesus corporately.

And I think we see, in the discussion between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, the priority of corporate worship. The dialogue in John 4, highlights the value of corporate worship.

There is this talk about a gathering location. And while Jesus says that worship isn't locational, He also says in verse 22, "*<sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; **we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.***" Of course, there is a theological debate going on here. Jesus is a Jew. The Messiah would be a Jew. Therefore, Judaism is the lineage by which God is at work accomplishing salvation. But I think, for the purpose of our message today on worship, it is important to point out Jesus' communal use of the word, "we." This indicates the value of corporate gathering for the purpose of worship.

We also see this in the book of Acts. The early believers prioritized gathering together. Then through the Pastoral Epistles we read of the urging of The Church to gather. Perhaps it most clearly seen in Hebrews chapter 10. *<sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* The early church understood the value and priority of corporate worship.

Do you feel to weight of what the author of Hebrews is saying? To not neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some. Meaning that some have allowed competing priorities to lead to neglecting corporate worship. And we feel that in our lives as well.

Just a little bit a transparency here. There are Sundays where the only reason why I am here at church is because I have to be here. There are Sundays where I would rather be somewhere else. Anyone else feel that way? Just being honest. Not because I don't enjoy being with you. It's just a challenge sometimes.

But here's the deal, we must view corporate worship as a priority because it is honoring to God and good for us. We get stirred up toward love and good

works. We are encouraged and challenged. Remember, last week we talked about viewing worship service as halftime. You and I need halftime!

And Scripture tells us what corporate worship is to look like. While there are many verses, I want to point us to two. An Old Testament verse and a New Testament verse.

Psalm 95, verses 1 through 7 reads, *“**1Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! 2Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! 3For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. 4In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. 5The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 6Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! 7For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**”*

Our faith is a singing faith! That’s why a portion of our worship service is musical worship. And let me challenge you here, if you’re not singing, you’re not engaging in corporate worship. But you might say, “I can’t sing.” Join the club! All I have is a joyful noise! I think a sign of a healthy church is people singing. In fact, I challenged our deacons one time that the sign of a healthy church is men singing. We have much to sing about. The Lord is Great and a King above all gods, the Psalmist says. So, He is worthy of our praise and singing.

Another function of a corporate worship service in 1 Timothy 4:13. *“**13Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.**”* Not only are we to sing, but we are to dive into God’s Word.

Can I challenge you here a little bit? Bring your Bible to church. I know we have the Bible on our phones and that’s awesome. But you can’t write in your phone Bible. Bring your Bible, write in it, underline Scripture, highlight, and search God’s Word. And if you need a Bible, take the one underneath the seat in front of you. Those Bibles were given to us, and we’d love to pass that along to you as your Bible. At Trinity, when we gather in worship, we sing because God is worthy of it. And we study the Bible because it is the very Word of God to us.

So, we see that worship is an everyday practice and that corporate worship is to be a priority. Thirdly, finally, ...

### 3) Private worship is essential.

Worship is both corporate and private. Corporate being gathering with God’s people. Private being your personal time alone with God. And your private worship will fuel your corporate worship, and it is our prayer that our corporate worship fuels your private worship. They work together in tandem.

Private worship is expressed in daily spending time in prayer, reading Scripture, and living a life of obedience to God. That is your spiritual, private worship to God. Jesus said in John 4:23 that, *“**the Father is seeking such people to worship him.**”* God seeks corporate and private worshippers.

I want to mention a couple practical ways to worship privately. Prayer. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. Meaning that we are to live in a constant state of prayer. Prayer doesn’t begin with, “Dear God,” and end with, “Amen.” Hebrews tells us that because Jesus is our Great High Priest, we can boldly come to the throne of grace. And Romans tells us that because we are justified, that is because we have been saved, we have access to God any time.

Did you know that when you tell God, “Thank you for,” and fill in the blank that that is prayer? It is also prayer when you bow on your knees and spend dedicated time lifting requests to Him. One way you can ramp up your prayer life is to realize the invitation to pray without ceasing.

The second practical way of spending time in private worship is in personal Bible study. I want to give you a method of studying the Bible. If you are looking for a tool to help you in your private worship, I want to mention one way. But, let me say, it’s not about checking a box. It’s about being with Jesus. But one way you can do that is by using the TEXT method. T-E-X-T.

T stands for talk to God in prayer before you read. Begin your personal time with God by talking to Him and asking Him to illuminate the Scriptures to you. The Holy Spirit will cause the Scripture to leap off the page and lodge into our hearts.

E stands for encounter God. As you read a passage, ask two questions. What does this passage say about God? What does it say about me? God reveals Himself in His Word, that’s what a passage or verse says about God. And God reveals steps of obedience, that’s what the passage says about me.

X stands for examine your heart. Consider what in your life that needs to be confessed to God. What actions do you need to take in light of what God has revealed to you? Then begin taking action on what God reveals to you.

The last T stands for talk to God again. Thank God for what He has shown you in Scripture. Share prayer requests and concerns with Him. Pray for wisdom. And share with God the steps you need His guidance in taking that will ultimately lead you to honor Him.

And let me give you a word of advice. Don't make too much out of this. I know some plans help you read the entire Bible in a year. That's great if that's you. But I will just tell you, there are sometimes that I can't read an entire chapter because there are a couple of verses that challenge me. They challenge me in my walk with The Lord or they are verses that I need help in understanding. My point is, don't feel tied to a plan as much as you are just tied to God and recognize your daily need for Him. Does that make sense? I'm not saying reading plans are bad, you understand. Because there is good to be disciplined to work through something. Just don't miss the forest for the trees.

I hope that is helpful to you. What is worship? Worship is an everyday practice. It is corporate and private. Corporate worship must be a priority. Private worship is essential.

### **CONCLUSION:**

In our pursuit to be an everyday church, we have to grab ahold of what worship is. And listen, the single greatest reason to worship God is our salvation.

The Bible says that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Sin is a little word that means to miss the mark of God's perfection. And while we have all sinned, we remain the object of God's love. Romans 5:8 says that God demonstrates the level of His love for us in that while we were still sinners, He sent Jesus to die for us. See, the payment for our sin is a perfect atoning sacrifice. Jesus paid that price by dying on the cross. He was buried in a tomb, but on the third day, He rose in victory. And by placing faith in Jesus, we receive the gift of God's grace, and we are forgiven and saved from the penalty of our sin.

Have you been saved? Have you been born again unto a relationship with Jesus Christ?

If not, you can today. At the conclusion of our services, our elders will be here at the front and would be excited to share with you how you can know Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life.

Maybe you have a prayer need. We would love to pray with you and over you for that as well.

I'm going to pray. We will stand and sing in worship. And then we will close our service today. Let's pray together. [PRAY]

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<sup>i</sup> *Works consulted in preparation for this message:* John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 1-11*, Moody Publishers: Chicago, 2006. Gary M. Burge, *The NIV Application Commentary: John*, Zondervan Press: Grand Rapids, 2000; Lloyd J. Ogilvie, *The Communicator's Commentary: John*, Word Books: Waco, 1985; Matt Carter and Josh Wredberg, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in John*, Holman: Nashville, 2017.

<sup>ii</sup> Strong's Concordance, 4352, proskuneó.

<sup>iii</sup> HELPS Word-Studies, 4352, proskuneó.