

First Things First

Pastor David Uth

Passage: John 4:16-26

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” *17* The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; *18* for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” *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.”

Background

In our third message of the First Things First series, we turn to the longest conversation Jesus had with a person as recorded in the New Testament. In his conversation with this Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus broke all social, political, and religious norms to illustrate exactly what he was teaching, namely that God will always find those who truly worship Him. The Samaritan woman was concerned about the right location for worship. But Jesus teaches her, and us today, that worship is not centered on a place or a program, but on the right person (Jesus) and right posture of our heart (spirit and truth).

Service Notes

January 23, 2022

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- How is your Bible reading going so far this year? Did you follow through with intentional prayer time this week? What did you learn?

Talk it Over

- **Read John 4:1-15.** Jews and Samaritans had long-standing animosity towards one another. What stands out the most to you about the interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan woman in these verses? In what ways did Jesus break social, political, and religious norms? What does that teach us about Jesus?
- **Read again John 4:16-26.** In what ways did Jesus guide the conversation to spiritual matters? What do you think it means to worship God in ‘spirit and in truth’? How does this demonstrate that someone is a “true worshiper”? Why do you think we often limit our understanding of worship to music in a gathering at a church building? What are some practical ways to help us see worship as *more* than music? How did the Samaritan woman, the people of the town, and the disciples all respond to Jesus (vs. 27-42)? What does this teach us about true worshipers?
- **Read Romans 12:1-2.** How does Paul describe worship in this passage? What fuels our worship according to this passage (vs 1)? What is our responsibility? What is the result? How can we ‘renew our minds’ so that we aren’t shaped by the world? How should the attitude of ‘living sacrifice’ change the way we live every single day?
- If worship is our RESPONSE to *who* God is and *what* He has done, what are some ways we can daily do this? Aside from musical worship, how can we give God the ‘honor’ or ‘praise’ He deserves at our workplace, within our homes, or in our relationships with others?

Live it Out

- This week, take a few moments each day to offer your worship to God through simple statements like: “*God, I love you because...*” or “*One thing about You I find joy in is...*”
- Daily Scripture reading can be found at www.firstorlando.com/40days.