

The Spirit of Worship

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."¹

Speaking of both the present and the future to the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus spoke of her, the woman, and of those who would come after her. This unknown woman of Samaria was an honest, blunt person, not afraid to speak her mind, for she said to Jesus, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can You ask me for a drink?"² who was not ashamed of who and what she was, telling Jesus, "I have no husband,"³ when Jesus asked her to, "Go, call your husband and come back,"⁴ and who had an attitude, a spirit, that was believing for better things from God and for God, for she said, "I can see that You are a Prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem,"⁵ and in reply to Jesus' words in John 4.21-24, she said, "I know that Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us."⁶ To her Jesus declared Himself Messiah, for He replied (declared), "I who speak to you am He,"⁷ before He made Himself known to His disciples, even the apostles. Jesus declared to this woman that He is the Messiah. And she was one of the first, if not the first, to win believers for Jesus by her testimony... as John wrote: **Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony...**⁸ She believed (worshipped) God and she sought to confirm the truth of what she was told so that the One who told her might be honoured. Indeed, she was the first who worshipped God in spirit and in truth.

However, Jesus spoke also of a time that was coming of worshippers who worship in spirit and in truth. The worship of God as displayed by this woman in her honesty is one way of worshipping God in truth. Indeed, she observed for us something of Jesus we do well to listen to. She said to the people in town, "Come, see a Man who told me everything I ever did."⁹ Do you realise the moment Jesus said, "Repent," He had already told you everything you ever did was a sin in God's eyes?

However, Jesus Himself defined the level of worship of God in truth for us. **To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**¹⁰ That was how we would know the truth and have freedom according to Jesus. But how do you use that truth and that freedom to worship God? How do you worship God in truth? What exactly is the worship of God in truth? **When anyone who has come to know the truth by holding onto the teaching of Jesus uses what he knows to work for the honour of the One who sent him by his own choice, that is, by his freedom, this is the use of truth in worship of God.** The man of truth in fact was preceded by the woman of truth in this case. The man of truth who works for the honour of the One who sent him is the worshipper God seeks. When you use the truth you know to honour the One who gave you that truth, it is the beginning of worship in truth, and when you work for His honour you become the worshipper God is seeking in part.

The worship of God in spirit then for you is not singing in tongues, joining a church worship service, lifting up your hands to God and all those juvenile things you were once a part of. **No, the definition of one who worships God in spirit whom He is seeking is the one who has the Spirit of Kingship, for whom the thought, hope, dream and work of enthroning God is his worship.** When you seek to enthrone God as your King as your act of worship, that then is the worship in spirit that God is seeking. And when you work with your utmost – with all your might, mind, heart and soul – to have Him enthroned on the Earth not for reward, nor for relief or any other purpose... but just as the expression of your worship of God... of your love, adoration, admiration and proclamation of Him and for Him... then you have truly become a worshipper who worships God in spirit and in truth.

This, elect, is how far we have come since we first started this journey almost a decade ago when the mandate for us was to be Christian worshippers and our scripture was John 4.24: **"God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."**

¹ John 4.23-24

² John 4.9

³ John 4.17

⁴ John 4.16

⁵ John 4.19-20

⁶ John 4.25

⁷ John 4.26

⁸ John 4.39

⁹ John 4.29

¹⁰ John 8.31-32

The physical enthronement of Jesus Christ in Heavenly glory on this Earth is the ultimate expression of worship by every spirit who has laid down his life for the word of God and his testimony. It is what they lived for and it is what they died for. For them it was not to live a blessed life to die comfortably and to enter Heaven for eternal bliss. No, indeed, the Revelation tells us they are kept separate from others... kept under the altar!¹¹ The reason they are returning with Jesus at the first resurrection is not because of the reward... no, elect, but for the completion of their pilgrimage. For those who set out on this pilgrimage do so seeking not only God, but seeking to 'worship' God when they find Him.

Those Magi who came from the east to Jerusalem... look at what they said to Herod, "[Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.](#)"¹² The purpose of their pilgrimage was to find Jesus and to worship Him when they found Him. So then, likewise for the saints who are returning with Him. Their sacrifice, their martyrdom, is their worship of God, which is why their souls are kept under the altar. They worshipped God both in life and in death... but He is the Resurrection, so their pilgrimage of worship is not over until they join with Him in the resurrection.

See how when the Magi found Jesus, they bowed down before Him and gave Him gifts – the gold, incense and myrrh – as an expression of their worship of Him.¹³ So likewise it is for the saints to give to God gifts as an expression of their worship. But what can we give to God that He does not already have, for all the silver, gold and cattle are His, even our souls already belong to Him, for He has said, "[For every living soul belongs to Me, the father as well as the son—both alike belong to Me](#)"?¹⁴ We speak of giving our souls and lives to God, but what is that really as a gift to Him when they are already His?

However, elect, you know that honour is not something God created for Himself, and honour is one of the few things that we can truly give to Him that is not already His. For honour is not something one possesses, it is something one can only receive.

So the man of truth who works for the honour of the One who sent him is the one who is giving his Master that which did not belong to the Master in the first place. A servant returning five talents to his master is giving back to his master what belonged to the master, but the servant who did it for the master's honour and did not profit is the one who has given the master a gift.

Honour then, as I have said before, is what we can give God – the Man of Honour – and [the man of truth who works for His honour gives to God a true gift as an expression of his worship](#). Those martyred saints whose souls are under the altar honoured the Lord with both their lives and their death... for as surely as they lived for Him so they also died for Him. Their death for Him being their act of worship is a gift to Him that would allow Him to prove His words true in John 11.25. However, their pilgrimage is not over, for Jesus is still not at His final destination. For though He is now at the right hand of God in Heaven, we know He must come back for His millennium and then go onto New Jerusalem after the millennium. So for them the pilgrimage continues. Their first gift to the Lord was their death, now they will return to be enthroned with Him on Earth and from there to rejoice with Him and His bride, New Jerusalem. Like the gold, incense and myrrh, the worship of Jesus by these saints is their martyrdom with Him, their enthronement with Him and their participation as His wedding guests.

For as much as giving honour to God is to give Him what He cannot create for Himself, giving Him Kingship is to give Him what He desires to be with honour. God can make Himself King anytime He wants, but where is the honour in that? None. But for us to make Him our King, then He can be King with honour, for He is a King chosen by the people and honoured by the people who want Him to reign forever and forever without end.

So then, we who are left alive, who now choose to work for the honour of Him who sent us and work to enthrone Him not only in our hearts, but on the Earth in the flesh in Heavenly glory, will join with those who wait for us under the altar of God in Heaven. [Their first gift to the Lord was their death in honour of His word and testimony... but our first gift to Him is our life, choosing not to die but to live and never die so that John 11.26 is fulfilled in us... in spirit and in truth.](#) Now together we pick up where death interrupted them – the work of the martyrs like Paul who went before us – and finish the assigned work so that all Scriptures are fulfilled and He can return on clouds of glory with all His elect and the angels of God. [And so our second gift is to enthrone Him in spirit and in truth.](#) Together with the returning saints, [the millennial harvest is our third gift](#) so that indeed Jesus can present to New Jerusalem a worthy dowry – a latter harvest of souls of men so large that it makes the number of the saints and the sands of the

¹¹ Revelation 6.9

¹² Matthew 2.2

¹³ Matthew 2.11

¹⁴ Ezekiel 18.4

shore seem inconsequential. And so we join with Him in His marriage to New Jerusalem in spirit and in truth.

The three gifts – the gold, incense and myrrh – the martyrdom, the enthronement and finally the wedding.

So the time that was coming has come, and the worshippers that God is seeking are available both in Heaven and on Earth... worshippers who worship in spirit and in truth. In Heaven God has His martyred saints and now on Earth the Lord has His elect, men and women of truth who are what they are because they are working for the honour of the One who sent them. And since they are men and women of truth, they can worship in truth and in a spirit that God is seeking – the Spirit of Kingship – that which He did not give but that which He has hoped to receive. Since it is a spirit not received from God but given to God from them, then those who seek to enthrone God as King can rightly worship in spirit as the worshippers He is seeking.

The men and women of truth who work for the honour of the One who sent them by making the One who sent them King are then the worshippers God is seeking... worshippers who worship in spirit and in truth.

The time that was coming has come and is now here! Amen.