

Espousal Newsletters

By Jim Golden — Article Eight — True Worshippers!

God is a spirit and worship is our deep and intimate interaction with Him. In order to worship in spirit and truth we must have received his Spirit. Worship is also a response to the true revelation of God. We cannot worship if we are offended with God. Offenses can secretly enter our hearts as worshipers when the circumstances of life present God to us in a less favorable light than when everything is going our way. When this happens we begin to worship like the "Samaritans" not knowing the One we worship. We begin to embrace religion instead of our wonderful heavenly Father.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans or <do not use dishes Samaritans have used>.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I 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 won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman 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." Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship

what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

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."

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

John 4:9-26

I would like to make some observations about these verses:

John 4:7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

Jesus is willing to come to anyone and give them his life.

John 4:8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

John 4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus transcends all social barriers.

John 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

The knowledge of God and what he offers is essential to becoming a true worshiper.

John 4:11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

Like most of us she needs knowledge or understanding in order to have faith.

John 4:12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

Her inquisitiveness borders on sarcasm yet she is truly amazed at this Jew and has an earnest desire to know by what authority he speaks.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty

again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

When she inquires instead of accusing or debating, Jesus answers her with the Gospel and she wants it. True worshipers are satisfied, but the religious worshiper has to keep on coming back to a low well that someone else dug.

John 4:15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

She reveals her true motive - self-benefit - still not worship produced by a knowledge of God.

John 4:16-18 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

In these verses Jesus begins to prove who He really is.

John 4:19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet.

While progress is being made she still doesn't have the knowledge to become a true worshiper.

John 4:20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

When she is confronted with her personal lack of the true knowledge of God she does what most of us do, falls back on her religious history in order to try to impress him.

John 4:21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

Now Jesus begins to reveal the secret of the true worshiper and his mission.

John 4:22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

Surgery is about to take place as Jesus confronts head-on the cold, hard truth between the religious worshiper and the true worshiper.

John 4:23 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.

Jesus now proclaims the reason he has come, to create true worshipers. They can only be created by the water that He alone gives them to drink. In

revival the Father has stopped his "seeking"- He has found His true worshipers, and as He abides His glory falls.

I want to describe what I mean with a picture. I used to work in Colorado Springs. Looming like the eastern-most sentinel of the Rocky Mountains was the giant Pikes Peak. Its awesome mass and height dominated the entire landscape. At over 14,000 feet it was breathtaking. As weather fronts would move through the area often the clouds would just blow by, but when they came across the summit of Pike Peak it was so high that the clouds would be caught and held there. The clouds would soon yield their fruit to the tenacious grip of the mountain. The rest of the terrain would remain untouched. However, as the clouds would move on, their absence revealed the mountain clothed in a glorious white garment. A true worshiper is just such a mountain to God. When His cloud encounters the true worshiper it is held until its glorious fruit is yielded.

John 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Jesus gives the absolute requirement for being a Christian. His worshipers must be recreated from God's spirit and have a true and intimate knowledge of their heavenly Father.

John 4:25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Amazingly she has heard everything but still doesn't fully understand. She is like many who come to the houses of worship on Sunday, but don't fully understand.

John 4:26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

The loving patience of our precious Savior revealed in his declaration to the woman at the well should give us all hope. The time is coming and now is when we will all be able to stop drawing water from low wells that someone us has dug and drink continually from the well that never runs dry — the well that Jesus has dug for us on Calvary. The only catch is this well can only be found at Calvary!