Acceptable Worship

After Jesus exposed the secrets of the Samaritan woman’s heart, she began to sense her need for God, so she asked where she should worship Him. Jesus ignored most of the issues that cause us worship angst. Instead, He spoke about the central issues of worship. If we get those things right, we can worship well under a wide variety of outward circumstances. **Acceptable worship—**

**1. Begins with a *seeking God***

A. Because of who *He is*

B. Because of what *we need*

**2. Is not bound to a *particular place***

A. Worship wherever His *Spirit is*

Jeremiah 23:23-24

B. Worship wherever His *people gather*

Matthew 18:19-20

**3. Is rooted in *spirit and truth***

A. In *sincerity of heart*

B. In *the truth of Christ*

C. In *the Holy Spirit*

Luke 10:21-22

**Application**. To worship well, let your feelings be stirred

A. Not so much by the *sights* & *sounds*

B. As by the *Trinity* & the *truth*

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. To worship is to bow down to the ground, to prostrate yourself, to exalt God by humbling yourself. It is not primarily a feeling, but an act of submission based on who God is and who you are. Worship may rise up to joyful praise, but when our feelings are low, it may begin with a determined obedience based on faith.

Exodus 4:29-31

Nehemiah 8:5-6

Isaiah 57:15, 18-19

1 Peter 5:5-7

Psalm 100

3. How would you describe your experiences of worship—both the highs and the lows?

4. What is the difference between pure worship—which may involve reverent silence, tears of repentance, and even joyful laughter (Psalm 126:1-3)—and a merely emotional experience, which can mimic these things?

“The worship of God is said to consist *in the spirit*, because it is nothing else than that inward faith of the heart which produces prayer, and, next purity of conscience and self-denial, that we may be dedicated to obedience to God as holy sacrifices” (John Calvin).