

Worship in Spirit and in Truth

John 4:20-24 | 2 July 2023 | Rev Dr Isaac Lim

John 4:20-24 (NIV)

²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹ “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

1. “when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem ...”

Just like the ancient Samaritans and Jews where the location of worship was of significance, very often, we place certain things as more important in our worship.

What are these things which are significant to BMC and ourselves in our worship to God? *(For some, type of church building/interior design, form of worship music and songs, liturgy, physical worship expressions are important in worship; can you think of other areas?)*

Our Vision

To be disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We exist to make disciples who love God, love one another and love the lost

SERMON REFLECTIONS

Are any of these actually non-essential (biblically speaking), and comes more from our own worship experiences in our journey of faith?

From your understanding of the Bible, what are essential ingredients for the Christians in worshipping God?

2. “the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth ... God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”

What does it mean to worship in (the) spirit?

Please note: the soul and the spirit are different. The soul comprises of our mind, emotions and will. The spirit is the invisible entity that engages with God.

Therefore, worshipping with our emotions (which is a good thing) does not necessarily mean we are worshipping in spirit.

John 4:24 suggests that one reason why we must worship in spirit is because God is Spirit. Do you understand this reason? What does it mean then in practice to worship in spirit? Discuss.

Consider these verses: John 3:5-8; Romans 8:5-17; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 5:18-20.

3. What does it mean to worship in truth?

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Consider these verses: John 16:12-14; Ephesians 1:12-14; 1 Timothy 4:5-7; Titus 1:1-3; 1 John 1:5-7.

4. Some churches believe that they worship God in spirit, because the hearts of the people are deeply engaged with the Spirit of God, and they experience the presence and love of Jesus in worship. And many spiritual gifts (as listed in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4) are operational in the church, even during worship services.

Some churches believe they worship God in truth, because the Word of God is central in their church, guiding and leading them. The Word is expounded, exegeted, taught, studied, and learnt.

What does it mean to be a church where we worship God in spirit/the Spirit AND in truth? [note: some English versions “in spirit”, while others “in the Spirit”].

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