

Series: Worship Together

Sermon: We Worship Together in Spirit and Truth

Primary Scripture: John 2:13-22; John 4:16-26 (ESV)

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John 2:13-22 (ESV)

¹³ *The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*

¹⁴ *In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.*

¹⁵ *And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.*

¹⁶ *And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."*

¹⁷ *His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."*

¹⁸ *So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?"*

¹⁹ *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."*

²⁰ *The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"*

²¹ *But he was speaking about the temple of his body.*

²² *When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.*

1. Jesus confronts and condemns self-indulgency in His place of worship.
"Here He states clearly that the destroying and raising of His body will in fact lead to the replacing of the temple worship by a new spirit and truth worship, based on His sacrifice and living presence." - Bruce Milne, The Message of the Bible, The Bible Speaks Today, p. 88.

John 4:16-26 (ESV)

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."*

2. Jesus cares about where we worship, but He cares more about the heart and how of our worship.
3. To worship in spirit and truth is to get at the very spiritual nature of God-centered worship.

- *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

John 4:24

- *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* John 14:6

- *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth ...* John 16:13

- *Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

John 14:17

- *But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.* John 15:26

- *He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.* John 16:14

C.S. Lewis, in his book Surprised By Joy, explains:

"No word in my vocabulary expressed deeper hatred than the word interference.

And the Bible placed at the center what seemed to me a Transcendental Interferer."

(p. 172).