**LIVING WITH WORSHIP**

**John 4.19-24 8-22-21am, QBC**

Someone tells this story, “Early in our marriage I gave my wife a terrific anniversary gift: a rain gauge. At least *I* thought it was a great gift. Susan, after all, is a farmer's daughter and keeps close watch on the weather. I envisioned her delight and nostalgia while tracking our back-yard precipitation. I congratulated myself on my creativity.

“Guess what? Susan was not impressed: ‘A rain gauge—for our anniversary?!’ - she questioned. The rain gauge is now a family joke, a classic example of a gift enjoyed by the giver but not the receiver. “

One word we hear a lot these days is *authentic,* as in "we seek authentic worship." Usually this means we're trying to create an experience that helps worshipers feel something. Nothing wrong with that, but if our focus is only on **our** experience, we **may be giving God a rain gauge**.

Are we offering in worship a gift **we** enjoy and figuring **God** will like it?

A real gift, real worship, means knowing what's important to **The Receiver**.

Worship is not meant to please **me**. It meant to please **God**. Worship is not intended to satisfy **you**, but to satisfy **God**.

Our word, worship, come comes from the word **worth-ship**. That gets to the heart of the matter. Worship recognizes the worthiness of the Lord . Worship seeks to ascribe to Him the glory honor and praise He deserves.

Like most things, worship has two sides, **attitude** and **action**.

Look at verse 23; it mentions ***TRUE*** WORSHIPPERS.

“**true**” means real or genuine.

“true” - the **OPPOSITE of** fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary, simulated or pretended

Do you think there is any fictitious or simulated or pretended worship anywhere??

“Worship” means “to kiss”

The picture is bowing and kissing the hand or ring of a king

Also pictured by a dog licking your hand, expressing love

Worshipping is recognizing how worthy the Lord is and bowing to Him

Reverencing Him and showing our love and adoration for him

Gerizim of the Samaritans is **nothing**

Jerusalem of the Jews is **nothing**.

Spirit and truth are **EVERYTHING**

Jesus says we must worship in spirit and in truth.

In Matthew we read of the Wise men, the magi, who travelled hundreds of miles or many days to worship the Lord.

The Bible says,  “Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship” (Romans 12:1, CSB)

First we gives OURSELVES to the Lord.

Somebody said that “the problem with living sacrifices is that they keep CRAWLING OFF the altar”

Turn to **1 Chron 16**. Let’s look at verses 25—30.

Background David has become king.

He tried to bring the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem.

They didn’t follow the instructions the Lord gave Moses. Instead of carrying with long poles on either side, they had set it in a cart. The cart bumped, the ark slid, and a guy named Uzzah reached out to steady the ark.. When he touched the ark, Uzzah died.

David was displeased — He was angry. But now, he did his homework.

Once David knew how to properly transport the ark of the covenant, they planned again, to bring it into Jerusalem.

There was a great celebration and David wrote a psalm. This is what we are looking at.

He is great and greatly praised (25)

Splendor, majesty, strength and joy are His (27)

ASCRIBE to Him GLORY (28—29)

ASCRIBE to Him STRENGTH

Bring an OFFERING

COME BEFORE Him

WORSHIP the LORD

Tremble before Him (30) (worship in trembling awe)

We see the attitude as well as the action

Recognition, reverence and response

Worship is more than a PLACE

More than a POSTURE

It requires Spirit and Truth

Jesus said **TRUE** worshippers will worship is spirt and truth.

Remember, TRUE is the OPPOSITE of fictitious, counterfeit, imaginary,

simulated or pretended

The Father ***WANTS*** such people to worship Him.

He wants us to be **REAL**

Open, honest, sincere, spirit-led, truth-guided

He wants us to **come before Him**, to **come to** Him

He wants us **to bow before Him**

He wants us **to express our love** for Him.

He wants us to **recognize** and **reverence** Him

He wants us to **worship**.

In Revelation 11.1 says, “Then I was given a measuring reed like a rod, with these words: “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship there” (Revelation 11:1, CSB).

HOW do you ***measure*** a worshipper??

Does it mean, “See how they measure up?”

How do **we** measure up as worshippers?

In the Old Testament, the Lord talks about using a plumb-bob to see of His people are “straight.”

He isn’t interested in the place or the posture. He does not care about they style of music. He doesn’t look at the outside. He looks at the heart.

He wants us to worship.

He wants our worship to be REAL — honest, sincere

He wants us to worship in spirit and truth