

Series: Living Out Our Purpose
Getting the Most Out of Worship
(Come to Christ in Worship)

John 4:21-24 (NIV)

Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, 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 spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

1. OUR WORSHIP IS NOT A FUNCTION OF LOCATION.

v. 21 *"...you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."*

- When we do not really worship God, even the usual place of worship is empty.

Lamentations 2:7 (TEV)

The Lord rejected his altar and deserted his holy Temple; He allowed the enemy to tear down its walls. They shouted in victory where once we had worshiped in joy.

- We are to worship God wherever we are.

2. OUR WORSHIP IS A FUNCTION OF THE HEART.

Obstacles to Worship:

- Sinful lifestyle

Jeremiah 7:2-3 (NIV)

Stand at the gate of the Lord's house and there proclaim this message: "Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the Lord. ³ This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place.'"

- Unforgiveness

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

- Lack of authenticity

Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men."

3. GENUINE WORSHIP CAN ONLY HAPPEN WHEN:

- We recognize Jesus as the Truth and worship God through Him.

v. 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"*

- We allow the Holy Spirit to open up for us the new realm of the Kingdom.