

Making Room for Worship*John 4:7-26*

Introduction: We are continuing our sermon series called *Making Room*, which is the name given to our building expansion project. The idea is that we need to make room in our building for people far from God, for children and youth, for worship and prayer. And we need to make room in our own lives for these same things. In this sermon series, we are exploring what this means for us as a church and for us as individuals. Last week we talked about making room for children and youth. Today, we are considering how we can make room for worship in our lives and in the life of Faith.

Opening Question: When do you feel most drawn into worship?

Read John 4:7-26

1. What truths about worship does Jesus communicate to the woman (v. 19-26)?
2. According to Jesus, what is true worship?
3. Jesus says that God is spirit (v. 24). What does that mean and what does it have to do with where and how we worship?
4. What does it mean to worship in spirit? in truth?

Steve said:

The thing we haven't mentioned yet is what Jesus says in verse 23, namely, that **God is actively seeking such worshipers**. God is not passively waiting to see if people will worship Him; God is actively seeking out people whom He will convert into worshipers. By the time we get to the end of the John 4, we realize that God was seeking worshipers in a most unlikely place (from the Jews' perspective): among the Samaritans, among people who were morally and theologically messed up! The woman at the well was a most unlikely poster-child for worshipping God in spirit and truth, but the next several verses explain how this Samaritan woman went back into the city and told "the men" (v. 29) that she had found the Messiah in this man who knew everything that she had done. And **many** of them believed in Jesus and became worshipers themselves.

5. How does it strike you to think that God is actively seeking worshippers?

6. If God is actively seeking worshippers, some of whom, like the Samaritan woman, are "unlikely poster-child(ren) for worshipping God," what implications are there for us as a church?

Steve said:

In addition to making room in our facility for worship, we also need to make room in our lives for worship. Those of us whose spiritual thirst has been quenched need to be people **who actually worship God** in spirit and truth. Of course God wants us to live a comprehensive lifestyle of worship. But there is something uniquely important about corporate worship. It matters whether or not we come here each week and **actively** express to God His worth in spirit and truth **along with** others who are doing the same.

7. Why do you think worshipping corporately is so important?
8. What kinds of things do you do (or should you do) to prepare yourself to gather for corporate worship on Sunday mornings?
9. In what ways can our worship throughout the week fuel our worship on Sunday mornings?
10. How can we avoid just going through the motions of worship and instead express true worship at the spirit level?