**John 4: 1-26 Pure Worship 9/6/2020 TBC**

**Intro:** What is the greatest question we could ask God?

**Answer: “Father, what do you want from me?”**

**Example**: “A-C-T-S” - To help us to pray.

ADORATION - “Lord you are great!”

 CONFESSION – “Lord forgive me!”

 THANKSGIVING – “ Lord thank you!”

 SUPPLICATION - “ Lord I need!”

I would suggest - “Confession” - “Surrender” - then the rest.

 Romans 2:1-2 “ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present** ( yield, surrender) your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

 II Chron. 16:9 a “For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.”

TEXT: John 4:1-26 The greatest announcement ever made. (**v. 21**)

You would think the greatest announcement ever made would be given to a great prophet. But it is given to a person who had **three strikes** against her in the ancient world.

 She was a Samaritan; she was a woman; she was a bad woman.

**Ex.** 80- year -old black man at Auto Convoy- “I just feel so unnecessary.”

Ponder this question today: So why her?

**TEXT: READ John 4: 1-9** (Explain Samaritans.)

 922 B.C. Kingdom split. 722 B.C. Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom. The poor people left behind intermarried with those the Assyrians send to live there. “Sams” (Samaritians) not allowed to help rebuild the temple when Judah ( SK) was released after 70 years captivity from Babylon because of their pagan ways. Sams worshipped on Mt. Gerizim ( 2890 ft.) It was here that Abraham met Melchizedek , and where Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac, according to Sams.

Sams build a temple there about the time Nehemiah was rebuilding Jerusalem. Destroyed in 129 B.C. by John Hyrcanus but still sacred to the Sams. They still celebrate Passover there.

It was here the blessing and curse was called toward Israel. Mt. Ebal the curse; Mt. Gerizim, the blessing.

 Jacob meant a lot to the Sams. Jacob’s well is at the bottom of Mt. Gerizim.

As with Israel, an emphasis on symbol over substance in worship. Israel had become legal and ritualistic in their worship. Sams were more superstitious in their worship, and not fully informed on the object of their worship. They relegated themselves only to the Penteteuch.

They knew of Messiah from Gen. 3:15, 49: 10 Shiloh, Deut. 18:18 and other passages in the 1st first 5 books. Of course they had heard more but were not sure. They called Messiah, “Hushab” – The Converter. Jesus could fully disclose himself here, early on, because the idea of Messiah to the Sams was not corrupted by the idea that Messiah would be a political figure as he was so seen in Judah by the Jews.

As always, Jesus gives evidence first, then announcement of who He was. He concealed His identity as long as He could in Judah. Here, it was not necessary to delay it.

**And here, in Sam, we learn something wonderful about God. Who is important in the world, may not be who we think is important in the world.**

**Perhaps , after today, you may enter into pure worship, as you have never done before, as you become overwhelmed by the love of God.**

**READ John 4: 10-15**

The gift is Christ Himself! **Col. 1: 27 2: 1-3 3: 1-4**

**READ 4: 16-21** Have to pour out old life to receive new life. ( cup of water illustration)

There is no such thing as “adding on” Jesus to a life. He is to be Savior and Lord. Not the “wagon-pusher” of your already self-focused life. It is as easy as receiving a gift. But a thirsty heart must reach out for it. The old cup must be emptied out in repentance before the new free gift can be poured in.

**V. 21** Greatest announcement ever made!

**v. 23-24**

**In Spirit**- Not the place or form of worship, or any other sensual limitations. God seeks those who accord with His own nature. You have to “line up” with God’s nature to fellowship with Him.

**In Truth**- We clearly see what God is like as He is perfectly revealed in Jesus Christ. John 1/ Hebrews 1/ Colossians 1.

There is nothing material in Father’s nature; therefore material worship in a worldly sanctuary cannot be the highest worship. Hebrews 9

**v. 26** The great “I AM.”

When they wanted to insult Jesus they called Him a Sam. John 8: 48. An insignificant Sam woman became the hero of one of His encounters. One of the greatest and most significant incidents in his earthly ministry!

Final **John 14: 1-6**