

Intro.**Jn. 4:20-23**

- A. Have you ever visited somewhere else for worship? → *It just didn't feel right.* or *I don't feel like I've worshipped.*
1. Is your standard of worship **family tradition**, like a woman I read about the other day? (text)
 2. Jesus settled the question about the sacredness of the location once & for all.
- B. A young man once asked: *What goes on in there?*
1. How would you have answered his question?
 2. Is it possible to be present for a church assembly, & yet miss the worship? **W-H-Y???**

Discuss.**I. WHAT HAPPENS DEPENDS ON --- PREPARATION.**

- A. If your worship is going to be affective, you must prepare! (c. **Gal. 6:7** & **2 Cor. 9:6**)
1. Worship is not primarily for me, but towards God.
 2. There is a serious need to prepare to come before The Almighty, c. **Ex. 19:9-14** *around Him.*
 3. **Ps 89:7** *God is greatly to be feared in ~assembly of ~saints, & to be held in reverence by all those *
- B. Our hearts must be prepared, **1 Sam. 7:3**
1. Athletes know the importance of preparing their mind & concentrating in order to do their best.
 2. Doctors think thru procedures before they perform them, as do many other professionals.
 3. Coming before the throne of God to worship requires no less preparation!
 - a. By Saturday evening, we need to have our Bible lessons prepared & in our minds, students & teacher
 - b. Our giving should be purposed & planned,
 - c. Bible reading & prayer before we leave the house Sunday morning can help us be more focused.
 - d. Getting adequate rest Saturday night is a MUST!!!

II. WHAT HAPPENS DEPENDS ON --- PARTICIPATION.

- A. Have you ever noticed what a challenge it is to really participate in worship?
1. Our great familiarity with worship makes it a challenge(1 yr. = 400+ prayers, 110 sermons, 800+ songs)
 2. One person said, *I can sing without thinking about the words.* (Most of us have probably done this.)
 3. It is certainly easier to wash dishes, type, or do almost anything else.
 4. Worship involves the intellect, the spirit of man. It requires a great deal of concentration to do it right!
- B. Being conscious of how worship that may be “empty,” some solutions offered do not help. **Ex. 32:19**
1. Change up the order of the service; dim the lights, sit in the floor, hold hands, special singing groups...
 - a. Be careful that your feelings do NOT become the standard of your worship.
 - b. Worship is to be the expression of our adoration to God, in a way we know pleases Him.
 - c. Worship is not for the sole purpose of making a profound impression on the worshippers.
 2. God's nature should be the determining factor for our worship (**Jn. 4:24**), not the nature of man.
- C. Our worship will improve as our awareness increases of God's very presence (~ not a mysterious feeling)
- Ex. 19:11-12**
1. Notice what aroused David to worship, **Psa. 8:1, 3, 9 & 9:1**
 2. ASmith – *In the Presence of God* (Illus. re: a presidential visit.)\

III. WHAT HAPPENS DEPENDS ON --- PRACTICE.

- A. When a man's practice is not right, worship will not be right.
1. Worship is dampened by division, **1 Cor. 11:17-18**
 2. On man reported that *worshipping here for 20 yrs. has not helped my wife!* c. **Mt. 5:23-24**
- B. The opposite is also true. When worship is right, it is translated into right practice. **Jas. 1:22**
1. We are to weave into our lives what happens in worship → Make the right application,Amen \\
 - 2.

Concl.

- A. Attention to preparation, participation & practice will make things happen in church that happen no where els
- B. God still seeks *true worshippers*, **Jn. 4:23-24**