

John 4:19-24 (NKJV): ¹⁹ *The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

1. The Samaritans and Jews were both concerned about the proper place to worship God. The Jews said Jerusalem, the Samaritans said Mount Gerizim. Jesus says that the Samaritans worshipped what they did not know. The Jews knew what they worshipped and salvation is of the Jews.
2. The Jews knew from God’s revelation what they were to believe concerning God and what God required of them.
3. The Samaritans were a mixed race formed when most of the Jews of the northern kingdom were taken into captivity by the Assyrians. The Assyrians then settled various other people from their empire into the vacated areas. Those people intermarried with the remaining Jews and formed a new people called Samaritans.
4. The new-comers brought with them worship of other gods. Eventually the worship of Jehovah was mixed with the worship of other Gods. The Samaritans also threw out all the Jewish Bible except the first 5 books. In so doing they disconnected themselves from God’s stream of revelation. In today’s world “idols of the mind” are a great threat to single-minded worship of God.
5. “*The hour*” is a phrase Jesus consistently used to refer to His death on the cross and His subsequent resurrection. It was essentially a code phrase identifying the atonement that would mark a turning point in human history.
6. After Jesus’ hour had come, worship of God would not be much concerned with “where to worship.” The essential truth of right worship would be to worship God through the risen Jesus. Worship of God is not “place sensitive.” In a very real sense Jesus is our Temple.
7. From these verses we deduce that the essential and main purpose of teaching and preaching is helping people to true knowledge and understanding of God so that they may properly worship and obey Him. All true knowledge and understanding of God is from Scripture. Guidance from Scripture and help from the Holy Spirit enable our experiential knowing and understanding our Triune God.
8. We will study the entire passage on the woman at the well a little later.