

Harmony of the Gospels
Part 16
“To Worship In Spirit and In Truth”

In the world of those who have been missionaries, there is no name more revered than that of Hudson Taylor.



He is considered to be the **“Father of the Missions Movement”**.

His son and daughter in-law who traveled with him throughout China in his later years said they would often travel over hard cobblestone roads for many hours throughout the night, in an old wooden cart with no springs.

Arriving at a Chinese inn late at night, they would seek to obtain a little corner in a room for their Father.

Usually in those Chinese inns there was just one large room where everyone slept.

Without fail, every morning, just before dawn, they would hear the sound of a match being scratched and a candle being lit as Hudson would worship the Lord.

It was the key to his life, and it was said the even before the sun began rising in China Hudson Taylor was worshipping God.

Worship is the one thing that is missing in Jesus church today. We are organized, we work hard, we have more Mega-Churches than at any other time in history, but we have forgotten how to worship our God

A man from France once commented that Americans have three Idols for worship:

1. Size
2. Noise
3. Speed

But true worship of the Living God is just the opposite of these; It is an awareness of:

- ☞ How small we are.
- ☞ That we need to be still and know that He is God.
- ☞ To just wait upon the Lord, **but you know how hard it is to wait for someone...**

*By the way, Ever notice that the people who are late are usually much happier than the people who have to wait for them? **Why is that?***

- ⊖ And to we need take time to be alone with Him and Worship Him.

When The Roman General Pompey invaded Israel, he was struck by how voraciously the Jews fought to defend their Temple.

- ⊖ **As a result of this**, he was very anxious to see what was in the inner most room, the “*Holy of Holies*”.
- ⊖ **He was surprised though** to see that inside the Holy of Holies, was just an empty room.

He didn't understand that Our God dwells in the unseen world, He cannot be touched with human hands, or seen with human eyes, **He can only be perceived by worship that comes from a true heart and a humble spirit.**

Psalms 5:7

But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; **To Honor You**, I will worship toward Your holy temple.

What does it mean to worship the Lord on “**Spirit and in Truth?**”

Earlier in chapter 4 of John, Jesus said that He wants to give to this woman “**Living Water**”.

- ⊖ **The people** that lived in this desert area understood what Jesus meant by “*Living Water*”.
- ⊖ **There were many stagnant ponds**, cisterns and tanks that containing dead water unfit to drink.
- ⊖ **Jesus was talking about** a water that they knew about, A water that quenches your thirst, a water that brings your body back to life, a water that makes the earth fruitful.
- ⊖ **So, this Living water** was a good example of how the Holy Spirit can so satisfy your soul that you will never be thirsty again.

John 4:14

but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him **will never thirst**. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.

Every human being has within them, a large empty place.

- ⊖ **From the day we are born**, we try to find something that will fill up that empty place.
- ⊖ **Some people** try material things, and they are still empty.
- ⊖ **Other try** drugs or alcohol, and they are not satisfied.

☞ **Others** try physical pleasure but are never filled.

Isaiah 55:2

Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy?

It just does not occur to us that what we are really craving and longing for is our God...

Psalms 42:2

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

Psalms 63:1

O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

Those of you who are here this morning and have discovered that this is true, and have invited Jesus to come and live inside of you, understand what it means to finally be satisfied.

- ☞ **The Bible says** that until you ask Jesus into your heart to be your own Lord and Savior, you will never be satisfied.
- ☞ **So we can prove** the Bible is true for ourselves, because the moment that we did let Jesus into our life, **we found that the Bible is true, Jesus is the fountain of Living water that satisfies...**

Last Sunday we observed as the Samaritan woman who was hated and despised, had made many mistakes in her life and was probably feeling like her life was a complete failure, meets Jesus at the well that she came to every day.

- ☞ **On this day** Jesus will forever change her life, as He came from out of Eternity to make an appointment with her to give her eternal life.

Jesus then continues to tell the woman all about her life, how many men she has lived with and everything she has ever done in her life...

John 4:13-18

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,
14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."
15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."
16 Jesus said to her, "**Go, call your husband, and come here.**"
17 The woman answered and said, "**I have no husband.**" Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,'
18 **for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband;** in that you spoke truly."

How would you feel if Jesus were to knock on your door today and ask to talk with you for a moment.

- ☞ **Then He would begin to tell you** the kinds of things that He told this woman here are the well.
- ☞ **Deeply personal things** that we would be very ashamed of.
- ☞ **How would** you feel about that?

Maybe we would do what she does next, Change the subject very quickly...

John 4

19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

Have you ever done that? When people ask you a very personal question that you really don't want to ask, **so you just try to change the subject...**

- ☞ **But in changing to a new subject**, she shows that she is aware that Jesus is not just an ordinary man.
- ☞ **He knows things about her** that she thought only she and very few other knew about.
- ☞ **Do you think** that she is a little embarrassed?

She begins to realize that Jesus is a very religious, Holy man, so to get the focus off of her, she changes her conversation to a very controversial religious subject, **"Where is the right place to worship God?"**

John 4

20 "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

When the Religious cults come to your door and they want to share with you their doctrine and their church beliefs, they try to jump around to all kinds of controversial subjects.

- ☞ **If you just try to stay focused** on the most important subject; *"Who is Jesus Christ? Do you believe in the Historical Jesus of the Bible?"* They will quickly try to change the subject to something else.
- ☞ **This is to distract you** from **what is the real question**, to the question that fits **their agenda**, namely to get you to join their church.

Jesus touches on a subject that the women at the well is not really comfortable talking about, **how man men she has lived with**, so she changes the subject to a religious topic:

John 4

20 "Our fathers worshiped **on this mountain**, and you Jews say



that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

The woman tells Jesus; **"Our Fathers worshipped on this mountain..."**

- ☞ **She is probably pointing** to Mt. Gerazim where Abraham set up his altar to the Lord and worshipped there.
- ☞ **Remember** that they are at Jacobs Well near Shechem.
- ☞ **Shechem is Located** between Mt. Gerizim (left) and Mt. Ebal (right).

John 4

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.

This is one of the most important things that Jesus will ever teach us, What True worship is all about:

- ☞ **Worship is not about the place** that our body is at, **worship is about the place that our heart is at.**
- ☞ **To worship in truth**, it to worship the Lord from a sincere heart.
- ☞ **It is possible** to be in a beautiful place of worship, wearing nice clothes, lifting up your hands, having your eyes closed, and sing the words to the song, **BUT NOT REALLY BE WORSHIPPING THE LORD.**

Or we can be walking down the street, in blue jeans full of holes, wearing sandals, and an old T shirt, eyes open (So we don't trip and fall), not saying a word, but our heart is full of love and adoration for Jesus and our Spirit is worshipping Him in Truth.

- ☞ **And in its truest form**, worship is not just coming here on Sunday morning and singing the songs and lifting up your hands.
- ☞ **Worship is how you live your life** the other 6 days of the week.
- ☞ **How you live** because you Love Jesus so much.
- ☞ **What you say**, because you want to please Him.
- ☞ **We worship in Spirit** when we are under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

When we want everything that we say and everything that we do to be controlled and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, this is Worship in Spirit and Truth.

When we forget about ourselves and allow everything in life to just wash over us without penetrating us, that is worship.

- ☞ **When people say unkind** or rude things to us, instead of reacting to them, we just say nothing and smile and let it go.
- ☞ **When people treat us wrong**, say things about us, take advantage of us and abuse us, we just let it go, for the sake of our Love for Jesus, that is true Worship.



To Worship in Spirit:

- ⊕ **When we begin** to do those things that are led by the Spirit.
- ⊕ **When we see the fruits** of the Spirit in everyday ordinary circumstance, **Love, Joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, longsuffering...**
- ⊕ **When we begin to live opposite** of the way the rest of the world is living.
- ⊕ **When our thoughts** are to do those things that please the Lord.
- ⊕ **Things that glorify** Him and not us.
- ⊕ **When we let things go** because we want to make for unity in the Body of Christ.
- ⊕ **When we lay aside our own desires** and our own agendas and meet the needs of other people.

That is True Worship

[John 4](#)

22 "**You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.**

"You worship what you do not know":

- ⊕ **The Samaritans believed** in the same God as the Jews **but they rejected all of the prophecies about the Messiah**, as a result they had an incomplete knowledge of God's plan.
- ⊕ **There are some Christians today** that speak of the prophetic part of the Bible as though it were not very important.

I have actually had people come up to me after studies that are prophetic in nature and scold me for teaching too much prophecy.

- ⊕ **Jesus tell the Samaritan woman**, "*We know what we worship*": Meaning that the Jews believing the prophetic word, they had a true understanding of the plan the Lord has for us .
- ⊕ **Because of the Prophetic word**, we know why we worship the Lord, because He keeps His promises, He does what He said He would do.

[Acts 20:27](#)

(Paul) For I have not ceased to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

- ⊕ **We must have** "*The full council of God*" to understand him, this is why we teach you the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Then Jesus says to the woman "**Salvation is of the Jews**: the context of the word "**Salvation**" seems to mean that the Jews have an understanding of what the savior is and what he will do.

- ☞ **The Messiah was to come from the Jews**, that is what the Bible says, and so it is through the teaching of God's word that the whole world would know about Jesus and have the opportunity to be saved.

John 4

- 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.**"

Man has this irritating ability to take something simple and beautiful and make it complicated and ugly.

- ☞ **When Jesus created His Church** in the Book of Acts, chapter 2, there were Just 4 things that the church was doing.

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in **the apostles' doctrine** and **fellowship**, in the **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**.

1. The Apostles Doctrine, the study of the Word of God.
2. Fellowship together.
3. Breaking of Bread, Eating together.
4. Prayer.

And yet, the this wasn't enough for the organizers of the church.

- ☞ **They established a hierarchy**, a rulership over the members of the church.
- ☞ **Even though Jesus** said that we should do this

Matthew 20:25-26

25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant

Today, the church has become a Religious institution, with men is great flowing robes, and more rules and regulations than the United States Government.

- ☞ It is not supposed to be this way.
- ☞ It is supposed to be simple.
- ☞ Worship of the Living God is to be kept simple.

And notice the rest of Chapter 2 of the Book of Acts, how happy the people that were a part of the church were with a simple format:

Acts 2:44-27

24 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,
45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

That is why we are seeking here at Calvary Chapel to just be what the church was in the 2nd Chapter of Acts:

- ☞ **Teaching** you all of the Word of God.
- ☞ **Providing opportunities** to fellowship together.
- ☞ **Eating** Together as often as possible.
- ☞ **Prayer.**

If you will look at the Bulletin, these are the only things that we focus on, because these are the only things that Jesus wants us to focus on.

- ☞ **When these 4 are in operation**, then people can worship the Lord in “*Spirit and In Truth*”.
- ☞ **Out of these 4 things** comes all the other things the church does, **reaching the Lost, feeding the hungry, ministering to peoples lives, leading people to Jesus.**

So, to Worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth means to keep it simple.

In the Book of Exodus, where the Lord gives the commandments, he gives an interesting instruction to us regarding the place where we worship:

Exodus 20:24-25

24 An **altar of earth you shall make for Me**, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.

25 And **if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone**; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it

If you make a place to worship me, the Lord says, just keep it simple, make it out of dirt, or just pile up a few rocks, but don't use any tools on it...

- ☞ **Did you** get that?
- ☞ **Keep it simple.**
- ☞ **The Lord doesn't need** big elaborate places for worship, in fact they can distract you from worshipping Him

That is why we have delighted in taking an Old bar that had a terrible reputation, and turn it into a place to worship the Lord.

- ☞ **According** to what I read here, this is exactly what He said to do.
- ☞ **Keep it simple**

John 4

25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

Literally, when the Messiah comes, He will tell us which mountain to worship on; Mt. Gerazim or Mt. Ebal.

- ☞ **Remember the dispute** among the Jews and Samaritans about which mountain that Abraham worshipped God at?
- ☞ **An interesting parallel today to the dispute about which "church" is right**—it is not the church that is important...it is how and who the people in the church worship.
- ☞ **Are there a lot of religious activities going on**—or do the people have a living personal relationship with God.

John 4

25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

26 Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you am He.**"

Except for just before his death, this is the only place where Jesus speaks so directly about who He is.

Why?

- ☞ **Jesus knows that this woman needs to know** who He really is, so He tells her plainly that he is the Messiah.
- ☞ **When Jesus is being questioned** by the Jewish religious leaders, He doesn't volunteer who he really is, because they don't believe in Him
- ☞ **This woman**, so hated by the Jews, is greatly loved by Jesus, and He knew what her need was, she needed to know the simple truth, Jesus is the messiah and He is the answer to all of her problems.

Wherever you are in your life this morning, the Lord knows what you need right now, and He will reveal Himself to you in a way that will meet that need.

John 4

27 **And at this point His disciples came**, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

The disciples return from buying food to find Jesus doing something that seemed strange to them; speaking to a woman at a public place.

- ⊕ **Even to this day**, in the ancient custom in Israel, if a man meets his own wife in the street he will not speak to her in public.
- ⊕ **Perhaps someone would see him** speaking to this woman and not know that she was his wife and they would think he was being unfaithful.

1 Thessalonians 5:22

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

- ⊕ **They tried to avoid** anything that even appeared like it was wrong.
- ⊕ **They wondered why** would Jesus speak to a despised Samaritan, particularly one with her reputation.
- ⊕ **Because the Lord loves her**, he loves everyone no matter what they have done, and He wants them to know him and be saved.
- ⊕ **There is an important principle though in this tradition**—to avoid the appearance of evil.

Matthew 3:13-15

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus **it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**”

Did you get that, it is not if we have the liberty to do something, it is even a greater law than that for us...What does what I am doing or saying look like to other people.

- ⊕ **Jesus cared** about how what He did or what He said was seen by others.
- ⊕ “*We must fulfill all Righteousness*”

John 4

28 **The woman then left her waterpot**, went her way into the city, and said to the men,

29 “**Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did.** Could this be the Christ?”

30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

Notice she leaves her water pot:

- ⊕ **This is important** because it shows that upon her complete surrender to Jesus, she left the old life behind, she is “**Sold Out**”.
- ⊕ **Nothing else in her life** will be able to affect her now because she is looking to and focusing upon Jesus.

“*Come and meet a man who told me everything I ever did*”: The Jews believed that when the Messiah came, He would be able to tell all of the secret things of man’s heart.

THIS BELIEF CAME FROM

Isaiah 11:2

2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Did you know that the Lord even know what you are going to think even before you think it?

- ⊕ **He loves you that much** that He is right there even looking at your thoughts.
- ⊕ **Not so He can say AHA!** *"I got you now, I heard that thought, that is it man, you've had it now..."*
- ⊕ **No, it is because He just wants close fellowship with you**, so He even draws near to hear if you might think of Him...

John 4

29 "**Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did.** Could this be the Christ?"

30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

Notice the woman asks the question: *"Could this be the Messiah?"*

- ⊕ **Literally in the Greek:** "**Estee—Maytee—Hootos—Ho—Christos**" *"Can this be the Messiah?"*
- ⊕ **By the way she asked the question**, she expected a negative answer.
- ⊕ **She knows** that the people of the town do not respect her because of her reputation.
- ⊕ **She knows she cannot possibly teach them anything, so she frames the question in a way the is the least offensive.**
- ⊕ **Kind of like:** *"Come and see for yourselves"*

John 4

31 In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

32 But He said to them, "**I have food to eat of which you do not know.**"

33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

34 Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**"

- ⊕ **Jesus is so captivated by the lives of others** to bring to them their salvation and a knowledge of who god really is he forgets to take care of himself.
- ⊕ **By this time** he was surely very tired, thirsty and hungry, but notice his response; *"The things that nourish and sustain me is to do the will of the father, to finish the work I came to do."*
- ⊕ **Notice how Jesus teaches**, by example. He does not force those who follow him to serve, He shows them how wonderful it is by doing it himself.
- ⊕ **The salvation of peoples souls** is more important than life itself, eating, drinking, sleeping and work should all have one common goal, to help others know the truth about Jesus and be saved.

- ☞ **We have the awesome privilege** of having the keys to heaven. People are dying without Jesus every day, but **we can effect their eternal destiny**. What in life could possibly be more important than that?

Joseph Stalin, the pioneer of the communist government in Russia once said to some of the missionaries he came in contact with:

“If I believed what you say is true about Jesus, I would crawl on my hands and knees across broken glass to tell just one person this truth”

- ☞ **He recognized** that is what Jesus said is true, then every person on the earth needs to hear it.

John 4

35 "Do you not say, 'There are still **four months and then comes the harvest**'? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look** at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

Four months: This was the Spring time, the harvest did not begin until after the Passover celebration on the 14th of Nissan (March-April)

- ☞ **From the farmers perspective**, there was still a 4 month interval between the time they planted until they harvested.
- ☞ **Here Jesus is saying** that there is really there is no waiting period, just look around, these people are ready to be harvested right now.

Many times we look at how many people don't know who Jesus is, and how hard it is going to be for us to reach them, and besides "I don't really know my Bible that well, so I won't be able to reach them..."

- ☞ **Jesus said**, "No just look all around you, people are ready, right now, just tell them about Jesus and what He has done for you and they will receive Him.
- ☞ **Not all of them**, but some will, but if you don't speak up, they will never know.

Between the 4th feast in Israel, Pentecost, and 5th feast, Trumpets, there is a period of 4 months called the "**Harvest period**"

- ☞ **We are in that period** right now.
- ☞ **When Jesus came the first time**, He perfectly fulfilled each of the first 4 feasts of Israel and the exact day they were celebrated and in the exact way they were to be celebrated.

In the Books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy, the Lord commanded Israel to observe 7 feasts or "Festival" days.

1. Passover.
2. Unleavened bread.

3. First Fruits.
4. Pentecost.
5. Trumpets.
6. Atonement.
7. Tabernacles.

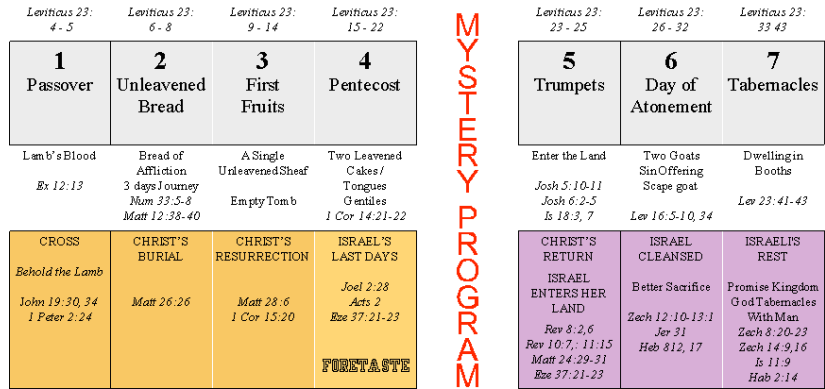
Israel's Seven Feast

Col 2:16-17

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:
17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. (KJV)

When the fulfillment of the 5th feast comes at the Rapture, when Jesus return to earth, the harvest will be over.

☞ This story is being used by Jesus to tell us how short time is to bring people into the kingdom.



John 4

- 36 "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.
- 37 "For in this the saying is true: `One sows and another reaps.'
- 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

This is the picture of the person who is laboring to teach others the good news about Jesus so that they can be saved.

- ☞ One person comes and tell the good news, they are the planter of the seed.
- ☞ Another comes along and tells some more about Jesus, they water the seed...
- ☞ Then one comes and leads that person to Jesus, they are the harvester.
- ☞ Here Jesus says all of them receive a reward, they are co laborers.

All you have to do is open your mouth and speak, and people will listen to you...**well most people will listen to you...**

A husband was trying to prove to his wife that women talk more than men. He showed her a study which indicated that **men use about 10,000 words per day, whereas women use 20,000 words per day.**

His wife thought about this for a while. **She then told her husband that women use twice as many words as men because they have to repeat everything they say to men twice.**

Her husband looked distracted and stunned. He said "**What did you say?**"

So, most people will be listening to you if you tell them about Jesus, just not your husband...

John 4

- 39 And many of the Samaritans of that city **believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified**, "He told me all that I ever did."
40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.
41 And many more believed because of His own word.
42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, **for we ourselves have heard Him** and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

Here we see a person that the world did not have much use for, but Jesus chose her to be a messenger to her family and friends, and all that she did was go and tell them what Jesus had done for her...

A radio talk show host in Idaho received an interesting letter from one of his listeners:

"Ted, I am a shepherd way out here on a ranch in Idaho. The only friend I have out here is my old violin and it is completely out of tune. Would you please strike the note "A" during your broadcast so that I can tune my violin?"

The radio talk show host honored the shepherd's request and later received a thank you note from him.

The shepherd was just a little out of tune, all that he needed was someone to strike the note so that he could hear it, then he could start to play music again...

Maybe that is you this morning, just a little out of tune, not quite where you need to be in your worship of Jesus...Now you know that worship is not about where you are physically, but about where you are spiritually...

You can cry out to Jesus this morning and say *"Lord, I haven't been worshipping you in Spirit and In Truth..., but I want to begin to today...Lord please give me the desire and the power to do it..."*