*Read John 4:1-42*

The Greek word for worship is *proskuneo* is described in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* as follows:

**“Strong's #4352:** *proskuneo* (pronounced pros-koo-neh'-o) from 4314 and a probable derivative of 2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore):--worship.”

It appears 61 times in the New Testament and nine times in John 4:20-24.

**JEWS AND SAMARITANS**

This passage concerns Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well.

Jews lived in the northern and southern regions of Palestine with Samaria in the centre. Jews would often bypass Samaria by crossing the Jordan and going through Perea and Decapolis to avoid it.

Following the invasion of Israel by the Assyrians (2 Kings 17:5-6) Samaria had become a region of mixed ancestry and religion. Being called a “Samaritan” was a term of hatred and derision (eg Jesus being called a “Samaritan and demon-possessed”! (John 8:48))

**JESUS KNOWS ME!**

Jesus knows who we are, where are and what we are thinking/how we are feeling! (ref Psalm 139)

He knew the woman’s circumstances (having had five previous husbands and living with a man not her husband) . He knew she would be at the well in Sychar at noon as the community would draw their water generally in the evening; it appears she was either absenting herself or forced to absent herself from the community.

**THE PROPHETIC**

The prophetic is a powerful witness, especially, as in this account, in the use of words of knowledge (see 1 Corinthians 12:8). God wants his people to be prophetic people (see Acts 2:18). Desire and exercise spiritual gifts!

**GOD SEEKS WORSHIPPERS, NOT THEIR WORSHIP!**

God does not desire the content or product of our worship, but seeks worshippers – seeks people – seeks relationship with us (see the example of David in Psalm 51:16-17).

**WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH**

Worship “in truth” is accurate. We need to know about God, what God’s word says about him. An emotional response alone will not sustain us.

Worship “in spirit“ is experiential and most come from our hearts. This can only happen through relationship. We must know him as well as know about him. We need the Holy Spirit to connect our spirits with God‘s

**TRUE WORSHIPPERS WITH A REVELATION OF JESUS ARE RELEASED INTO THEIR PURPOSE**

The revelation of Jesus as Messiah, given to the woman, predates Peter’s revelation of the same by around two years!

The woman at the well is released into being a true worshipper in response to the revelation and a move of the Holy Spirit. She is released into God‘s purpose for her, which is telling others about Jesus and bringing them to him. Other examples of this in the Bible are of David, Zacchaeus and the disciples (Acts 4).

**CORPORATE WORSHIP**

True worshippers are called to worship in community together – the church! This relates to acts of worship such as singing, giving, receiving the word as well as discovering our lives’ purposes. Worship, in the moment or working out our vision, involves the giving of all that we are as a “living sacrifice” to God (see Romans 12:1). The woman at the well was restored to her community. Sung worship is important – much of our personal theology comes from the songs we sing. They need to be biblically accurate, relevant and unifying. It is important therefore for those responsible for the songs the church sings to be wise and prayerful about song lyrics – they need to enable the worshipper to worship in spirit and truth!

The church is chosen by God to declare his praises in song, word and deed:

*1 Peter 2:9-10 NIV*

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*