

November 12, 2023

## Thanksgiving around the Table

FRIENDSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIP ARE IMPORTANT AT  
CROSSWALK.

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF WITHOUT A TABLE TO SIT AT ON  
THANKSGIVING DAY, JOIN US AT 1:00PM FOR A MEAL IN THE  
LOUNGE. TURKEY AND ALL THE FIXINGS WILL BE PROVIDED.

EMAIL [LINDA@CROSSWALKCHURCH.COM](mailto:LINDA@CROSSWALKCHURCH.COM)  
TO RESERVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Mike Sampani Memorial at Crosswalk Church  
Saturday November 18 at 10am

Marilyn Allen Memorial at Crosswalk Church  
Saturday December 9 at 2pm



[www.crosswalkchurch.com](http://www.crosswalkchurch.com)

Pastor Briant Cuffy

## True Church

*The Revolution Continues*

Worship

John 4:7-25

## John 4:7-25

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."



## VETERANS DAY

### HONORING ALL WHO SERVE

THIS WEEKEND ON NOVEMBER 11TH, WE PAUSE TO REFLECT ON THE HISTORY OF THIS GREAT NATION AND HONOR ALL THOSE WHO FOUGHT TO DEFEND IT.

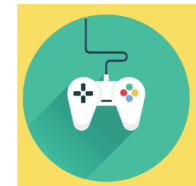
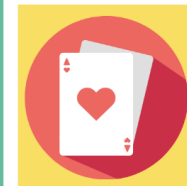
CROSSWALK CHURCH EXPRESSES GREAT THANKFULNESS TO ALL VETERANS. FOR YOUR SACRIFICES, YOUR SENSE OF DUTY, AND YOUR LOVE FOR THIS COUNTRY.

WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SERVICE TO AMERICA ON VETERANS DAY AND ALWAYS.

# FAMILY GAME NIGHT



CROSSWALK  
COMMUNITY CHURCH



NOV  
17  
6:30PM



## SEE YOU THERE!

445 South Mary Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
[crosswalkchurch.com](http://crosswalkchurch.com)



## (John 4:7-25) Worship

### **Worship Rediscovered**

We find in John 4:19-24 a conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman who came to the well of Jacob to draw water. Their conversation has special implications for modern worship: “‘Sir,’ she said, ‘I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.’ Jesus declared, ‘Believe me woman; a time is coming when you will worship neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.’” (NIV)

In the preceding text, Jesus identifies the requirements for worship as “spirit” and “truth.” First, God is spirit and must be approached on that basis. God determines the parameters of worship. The worshiper receives his kneeling orders from God. As a spiritual being, God must not be defined by earthly thinking or reduced by human reasoning. Those who worship Him must do so on His terms. This is pivotal to understanding what it means to worship God, and was precisely what Jesus wished to convey to the Samaritan woman. Both Jews and Samaritans identified worship with a physical location. The Samaritans worshiped on Mt. Gerazim and the Jews in Jerusalem. Jesus rendered the location of the worshiper a trivial matter, in light of the fact that the requirement for worship was not physical, but “spirit” and “truth” respectively. This implies that God is not so much interested in where one is when he worships as much as the object of his/her worship. It’s about whom we worship.

The second of Jesus’ requirements for worship is truth. Truth is that condition on account of which the worshiper is qualified to enter God’s presence. The Psalmist David understood this well. He knew that only through the mercies of God could he enter God’s presence. In Psalm 5:7 he says: “But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.” (NIV) What David teaches us here is that worship must be based on a lifestyle that is consistent with God’s nature, and grounded in active obedience. For this reason, worship is more than an event, it is not a performance—it is instead a passionate surrender. Worship must affect us in a meaningful way. It must leave us changed, shaken, torn up, shattered and yet fully alive, because we have encountered the Living God. Until we are affected in this way, we still worship our ideas of God rather than the true God revealed by Jesus. And when we have reached that awesome understanding, we are at once empowered to live life with more than our selfish ambitions. Life itself is now fully opened up to us and we live co-extensively. This means that I can no longer see my job the same way, treat my husband or wife the same way, care for my children the same way, view my neighbors the same way, or offer to God what I myself would refuse had it been given to me as the very best offering.



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Sadly, however, that is not the experience for many in the church to whom Matt. 15:8, 9 is addressed: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrine the precepts of men." The modern worshiper is eager to advertise their religiosity but stubbornly resist the more weighty matter of honoring God. His worship is dictated more by his need for God's favor than for truth. Consequently, doctrine is downplayed, and personal holiness loses its importance. Worship should compel us to align our entire nature to God; conscience, mind, will and emotion. In this way, the life of the worshiper becomes an extension of God, in essence His light and salt in the earth. The absence of that mindset has left the worship event without impetus—an act that succeeds at best in generating "spiritual" smoke without fire—an empty act of self-actualization.

In an article in Christianity Today, Donald G. Bloesch demonstrated this ubiquitous dilemma: "Contemporary worship," he said, "is far more egocentric than Theo-centric. The aim is less to give glory to God than to satisfy the longings of the human heart. Even when we sing God's praises, the focus is on fulfilling and satisfying the human desire for wholeness and security." Worship is not about us. Yet, many in the church today have forgotten this important truth that worship is about the pursuit of God's honor not personal need, choice or preference. Recently, I spoke to a university student whose idealism explains this problem: "Everyone worships God in his or her own way," she said. But when worship is carried out without divine direction it not only fails to be worship, but it constitutes idolatry.

The fact that many today never think of false worship as idolatry is itself the problem. We cannot call God holy but treat him less than holy. We cannot talk of him as awesome and have no fear of him. We cannot sing of him as mighty and rely on our own power. When we act in this way we make God into our image; something akin to an ATM machine for the indulgence of people who neither truly love God nor desire anything but our selfish needs. But a god who requires no more than what his subjects deem him worthy of cannot be truly God.

True worship must measure up to all that God is and all that he demands. It must be both truth and spirit driven. The God of biblical Christianity refuses to be confined, refined or defined by human ideals. The words of Jesus spoken two millenniums ago still echo with relevance, "God is spirit and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Pastor Briant

## Sermon Notes

(1) Worship Shifts God's People to Himself (V.23, 24)

(2) Worship Helps us Live Right (V.25)

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