

# Abide in Me

*Mentored by the Master  
Discipleship in Real Time*



Volume 10 - Number 10

The Week of December 15, 2024

*The Savior We Long For*  
**O Come Let Us Adore Him**  
John 4:21-24

In this season of Advent, we remember that Jesus came to transform our lives, including how we worship. In our passage, we encounter a remarkable moment in Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman. What begins as a discussion about water and social norms turns into a profound revelation about worship. What Jesus says shifts the reality of worship from an external place or act to the internal posture of the worshiper. True worship, He says, occurs *in spirit and truth*. His words call us to a deeper, more authentic worship that honors God for who He is, in every place and at all times. Jesus invites us into a new way of worship—one that transforms not only our gatherings but also our entire way of life.

**OBSERVATION** (*What does the passage say and how does it say it?*)

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Place a  $\Delta$  over each reference to God the Father.
- Place a box around each occurrence of the word *worship*.
- Draw connecting circles between *you worship* and *we worship* (v. 22) which highlights the gap of an incomplete understanding of God between Jews and Samaritans.
- Place brackets around both occurrences of the phrase *the hour is coming* (vv. 21, 23).
- Circle the phrases *this mountain* and *in spirit and truth* (v. 21 vs. v. 23). In the margin write: *The physical location of worship is rendered irrelevant.*
- In the margin of verse 24, list a few words that capture what it means to say God *is spirit*.
- Double underline the words *must worship* (v. 24). In the margin, note that this is an imperative or a command.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

**Summarize in one sentence the central idea of the passage:**

(*What is Jesus talking about and what does He say about what He is talking about?*)

### **INTERPRETATION** (*What does the passage mean?*)

1. What does Jesus mean by *the hour is coming* in verse 21? How does this phrase point to a significant shift in worship?
2. Why does Jesus emphasize that worship will no longer be tied to a specific location, such as Mount Gerizim or Jerusalem? How did His coming and His death and resurrection change everything about worship?
3. What does Jesus' statement *you worship what you do not know* reveal about the Samaritan understanding of God?
4. How does the phrase *in spirit and truth* redefine the nature of acceptable worship?
  - What is the significance of Jesus describing God as "spirit" in verse 24? How does this attribute shape our understanding of worship?
  - How does knowing God as He has revealed Himself in Scripture and ultimately in His Son shape our approach to worship?

### **APPLICATION** (*How does the passage apply to our lives?*)

1. How can you ensure that your worship is focused on God rather than on external factors like location, style, or tradition?

2. How does your understanding of God as *spirit* influence the way you approach Him in worship?
  
3. In what ways can you personally worship God *in spirit* during your daily life?
  
4. How can you use Scripture to deepen your understanding of who God is and enhance the truthfulness of your worship?
  
5. What truths about God have inspired your worship recently (even during Advent), and how can you share these with others?

You can choose to close your Growth Group by singing this carol together:

*O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem  
 Come and behold Him, born the King of angels  
 O come let us adore Him  
 O come let us adore Him  
 O come let us adore Him  
 Christ the Lord*

*Yes, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning  
 Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n  
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing  
 O come let us adore Him  
 O come let us adore Him  
 O come let us adore Him  
 Christ the Lord*

