

A Compelling Priority

Description

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John 4:7-24

It was a billboard. It advertised a church, gave the time, and proudly proclaimed the service as “Casual Worship.” I know what they mean. But honestly, “casual” and “worship” do not belong in the same grammatical proximity. The word “casual” is a millstone around the neck of “worship.” It strips worship of its holy awe. It weakens worship’s true nature.

In John 4, Jesus is having a lovingly serious conversation with a *woman*—culturally, that’s “strike 1.” A Samaritan woman—that’s “strike 2.” And a *sinful* Samaritan woman—that’s “strike 3.” Jesus’s line of conversation was becoming uncomfortable for her. She needed a diversion—“Let’s talk about the worship-war-of-the-day, Jesus.” She would go on to argue about “where” true worship takes place. Jesus, however, was more concerned with something else. Worship is never about place or practice; it’s all about priority.

God’s Spirit together with God’s Truth produces authentic spiritual worship—every time.

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