(Slide 1) Week 4 — Rooted in Worship

Main Text: John 4:23–24 (ESV) 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. **24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Big Idea: True worship is more than singing songs or attending church. It is a Spirit-empowered response to who God is that transforms how we live.

We need to move beyond watching worship happen to becoming people who worship God in spirit and truth—on Sunday, throughout the week, and in every area of life.

(Slide 2) Introduction: Worship Is More Than a Song

Let me ask you a question this morning: What comes to your mind when you hear the word worship?

For some of us, we immediately think about the music. We think about the worship team, the songs we sing, the instruments, the lights, or the moments when the whole congregation lifts its voice together.

And there is nothing wrong with singing. Singing is a biblical and important expression of worship.

But what happens when the music stops?

What happens when the last song is over, the instruments are put away, and we walk out those doors into the ordinary routines of life?

Can we still worship God when the bills are due? Can we worship when a relationship is strained? Can we worship when the answer to our prayer hasn't come? Can we worship when we don't feel particularly spiritual?

Because if worship only happens when the music is playing, we've misunderstood what worship really is.

We've been working through our series, Rooted: Growing Deep in Christ. We've talked about being rooted in Jesus, grounded in His Word, and growing in prayer.

Today, we're talking about being Rooted in Worship.

A tree draws nourishment through its roots, even when nobody is looking. In the same way, a life rooted in worship is continually turned toward God—not just during a church service, but in the everyday moments when nobody else is watching.

In John 4, Jesus has a conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well. It begins with a simple request for water, but it becomes a conversation about her life, her spiritual condition, and the kind of worship God desires.

The woman raises a question about where people should worship. Should it be on the mountain in Samaria, or in Jerusalem?

Jesus takes her beyond the argument about location and points her toward something much deeper.

Jesus says that true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, because the Father is seeking such people to worship Him.

Notice that statement: The Father is seeking worshipers.

God isn't merely looking for people who can sing in tune. He isn't simply looking for people who know when to stand, sit, raise their hands, or say amen.

He is seeking people whose hearts are genuinely turned toward Him.

Today, I want us to look at four truths that can help us become that kind of worshiper.

(Slide 3) 1. True Worship Begins With Knowing Who God Is

Before Jesus explains how we are to worship, He directs our attention to the One we worship: the Father.

Worship begins when we recognize who God is and respond to Him accordingly.

We don't worship God simply because we like the songs, enjoy the atmosphere, or feel encouraged by the service. We worship Him because He is worthy.

He is our Creator. He is our Savior. He is holy, faithful, merciful, powerful, and worthy of all our praise.

A. Worship is about God, not us.

One of the dangers in our modern church culture is that we can begin evaluating worship entirely by what we get out of it.

We say things like:

- “I really liked the worship today.”
- “That song was my favorite.”
- “I just didn't get much out of church this morning.”
- “I didn't feel anything during worship.”

Now, there is nothing wrong with being encouraged by a song or experiencing God's presence in a powerful way. We should desire to encounter God when we gather together.

But we must remember something: Worship is not primarily about how we feel. It is about who God is.

What happens when the song isn't our favorite? Is God any less worthy?

What happens when the worship team makes a mistake? Is God any less holy?

What happens when we're tired, distracted, or walking through a difficult season? Has God's faithfulness changed?

No!

God's worthiness is not determined by our emotions.

Psalm 29:2 calls us to give the Lord the glory due His name and to worship Him in the splendor of holiness.

We don't worship because everything in our lives is going right. We worship because God is still God when things go wrong.

B. Worship begins with revelation.

Think about the people in Scripture who encountered the greatness of God.

When Isaiah saw the Lord in Isaiah 6, he was overwhelmed by God's holiness.

When Thomas encountered the risen Jesus in John 20, he declared, “My Lord and my God!”

When John received his vision of heaven in Revelation 4, he saw living creatures and elders giving glory, honor, and thanks to the One seated on the throne.

When we begin to see God for who He really is, worship becomes our response.

The more we understand His holiness, the more we recognize our need for His grace.

The more we understand His mercy, the more grateful we become for salvation.

The more we understand His faithfulness, the more confidently we can trust Him.

Talking point: Sometimes we struggle to worship because we have become so focused on our circumstances that we've lost sight of the greatness of our God.

We need to lift our eyes again.

He is still the God who saves. He is still the God who heals. He is still the God who provides. He is still the God who comforts. He is still the God who speaks through His Word and empowers His people through the Holy Spirit.

Our circumstances may change, but His character does not.

Church, we're not gathering to put on a performance for God or for one another. We're gathering to give glory to the One who is worthy of our worship.

If worship begins with knowing who God is, then the next question is this: What kind of worship does God desire?

(Slide 4) 2. True Worship Must Come From the Heart

Key Scripture: John 4:23 — “The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit…”

Jesus tells the woman that the Father is seeking people who worship Him in spirit.

This means worship cannot be reduced to outward actions alone. God is concerned with what is happening within us.

We can sing the words without thinking about them. We can lift our hands while our hearts are somewhere else. We can attend every Sunday service and still neglect our relationship with the Lord.

Our outward actions may look right while our hearts remain distant.

A. God wants more than our outward participation.

In Matthew 15:8, Jesus quotes Isaiah's warning about people who honor God with their lips while their hearts are far from Him.

That is a serious warning.

We can become so familiar with church that we forget why we come.

We know when to stand. We know when to sing. We know the routine. We know how the service works.

But familiarity with the routine does not guarantee intimacy with God.

We can be physically present while spiritually distracted.

We can sing about surrender while refusing to surrender an area of our lives.

We can sing about forgiveness while holding on to bitterness.

We can sing about trusting God while trying to control everything ourselves.

The question isn't simply, “Did I sing today?”

The question is, “Did I bring my heart before the Lord today?”

B. Worship involves our whole being.

Romans 12:1 calls believers to present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, describing this as spiritual worship.

In other words, worship involves how we live, not just what we sing.

Our words can be worship.

Our obedience can be worship.

Our service can be worship.

Our generosity can be worship.

Our willingness to forgive can be worship.

The way we treat our spouse, raise our children, respond to frustration, and conduct ourselves at work can all reflect whether our lives are surrendered to God.

We don't stop worshiping when we leave the sanctuary. We carry our worship into the world.

C. The Holy Spirit helps us worship sincerely.

As an Assembly of God church, we believe that the Holy Spirit is active in the life of the believer and in the gathered church.

We believe worship can include heartfelt singing, lifted hands, prayer, spiritual gifts exercised biblically, and responding to the presence and leading of the Holy Spirit.

But we must never confuse outward expression with inward surrender.

Someone may worship quietly and sincerely. Someone else may worship with great joy and expressive praise. The outward expression may differ, but genuine worship comes from a heart turned toward God.

The Holy Spirit does more than move our emotions. He works in our hearts, reveals the truth of Christ, convicts us of sin, and transforms us to become more like Jesus.

God is not asking you to pretend to be passionate about Him. He is inviting you to bring your real heart into His presence and allow Him to change you.

Before the next time you worship, ask the Lord to prepare your heart. Confess what needs to be confessed. Release what needs to be surrendered. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you worship sincerely.

God is not looking for perfect performers. He is seeking genuine worshipers.

(Slide 5) 3. True Worship Must Be Grounded in Truth

Key Scripture: John 4:24 — “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Jesus doesn't say that we should worship in spirit or truth. He brings the two together.

True worship involves the heart, but it is also grounded in the truth of who God is and what He has revealed in His Word.

Sincerity matters, but sincerity alone is not enough. We can sincerely believe something that isn't true.

That's why our worship must be shaped by Scripture.

A. We worship God as He has revealed Himself.

Our culture often encourages people to create a version of God that fits their personal preferences.

Some want a God who blesses them but never corrects them.

Some want a God who provides comfort but never calls them to repentance.

Some want a God who agrees with their opinions but never challenges their attitudes.

But we don't get to redefine God according to what makes us comfortable.

We must worship the God who has revealed Himself through His Word and through Jesus Christ.

We worship Him as holy and loving, just and merciful, full of grace and worthy of obedience.

When our understanding of God comes from Scripture, our worship is grounded in truth rather than personal preference.

B. God's Word shapes our worship.

Colossians 3:16 connects the Word of Christ dwelling richly among believers with singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in our hearts to God.

Notice the connection between the Word and worship.

What we believe about God shapes how we worship Him.

If we understand His grace, we worship with gratitude.

If we understand His holiness, we worship with reverence.

If we understand His promises, we worship with confidence.

If we understand the cross, we worship with humility and thanksgiving.

This is why we must be a people of the Word.

We don't simply want songs that make us feel good. We want songs that direct our hearts toward the truth of God's character, His salvation, and His promises.

And we don't only want to sing the truth. We want to live it.

C. True worship leads to obedience.

Jesus said in John 14:15, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Obedience does not purchase God's love. We are saved by grace through faith, not by our own works.

But genuine love for Jesus produces a desire to follow Him.

If we worship God on Sunday but knowingly reject His Word throughout the week, something is wrong.

We cannot separate worship from discipleship.

We cannot sing, “Have Your way, Lord,” and then refuse to let Him direct our decisions.

We cannot sing about loving our neighbors while refusing to show kindness to the people around us.

We cannot praise God for His forgiveness while refusing to forgive others.

Worship should not simply give us a moment of inspiration. It should shape the way we live.

The question isn't just whether we lifted our voices to God. It's whether we're willing to live under the authority of the God we praised.

Let God's Word challenge your worship. Ask yourself, “Is there an area where I am singing one thing but living another?”

True worship is both heartfelt and biblical. We worship God sincerely, and we allow His truth to shape our lives.

(Slide 6) 4. True Worship Continues When the Music Stops

Key Scripture: Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Let's bring this message into everyday life.

If worship is about who God is, if it comes from the heart, and if it is grounded in truth, then worship cannot be limited to a Sunday morning service.

Our gathered worship matters. Hebrews 10:24–25 encourages believers to continue meeting together and encouraging one another.

But corporate worship is meant to be part of a life of worship, not a substitute for it.

A. Worship in the ordinary moments.

You can worship God while driving to work.

You can worship Him while doing dishes, preparing a meal, helping your children, serving a neighbor, or working through a difficult responsibility.

You can worship through honest work, generous service, faithful obedience, and gratitude for what God has provided.

You don't have to be standing in a sanctuary to honor God.

First Corinthians 10:31 teaches that whatever we do, even eating and drinking, should be done to God's glory.

That means the ordinary parts of our lives can become expressions of worship when they are offered to Him.

(Slide 7) B. Worship in the difficult seasons.

One of the clearest demonstrations of genuine worship happens when life becomes difficult.

In Job 1, after devastating loss, Job falls to the ground and worships the Lord.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas pray and sing hymns to God while imprisoned after being beaten.

They weren't worshiping because their circumstances were comfortable. They were turning their hearts toward God in the middle of hardship.

Now, that doesn't mean Christians never grieve, struggle, or ask difficult questions. Scripture gives us many examples of God's people crying out in pain.

But grief and worship are not enemies.

You can cry and still worship.

You can have questions and still trust God.

You can walk through a painful season without abandoning the One who holds you.

When you don't understand, you can still worship His wisdom.

When you're waiting, you can still worship His faithfulness.

When you're hurting, you can still bring your pain into His presence.

When you're afraid, you can still declare that He is worthy of your trust.

C. Worship changes how we see our circumstances.

Worship doesn't always change the situation immediately, but it can change the way we approach it.

When we turn our attention toward God, we're reminded that our circumstances are not greater than His power and that our future is not outside His care.

Worship reminds us that God is still at work, even when we cannot see everything He is doing.

But the purpose of worship is never simply to have an emotional experience. We seek God's presence because we belong to Him and desire to be changed and empowered for His purposes.

We don't leave our worship at the church doors. We carry our devotion to Jesus into our homes, our workplaces, our relationships, and our community.

Worship isn't just an event we attend. It is a life we offer to God.

(Slide 8) 5. A Church Rooted in Worship Becomes a Church That Points People to Jesus

This is where the message moves from personal application to the life of our church.

What kind of church do we want Harvest Assembly to be?

- We want to be a church where people encounter the truth of God's Word. We want to be a church where people can pray, grow, experience the work of the Holy Spirit, and discover what it means to follow Jesus.

We want our worship to be more than a program we conduct. We want it to be a sincere response to God's presence and goodness.

A. Worship draws our attention to God.

When we gather, the focus should not be on personalities, performances, or personal preferences.

The focus is Jesus Christ.

Our music, preaching, prayer, fellowship, and ministry should direct people toward Him.

B. Worship builds up the church.

Ephesians 5:18–20 connects being filled with the Spirit with speaking to one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord, and giving thanks to God.

Our worship is personal, but it is also shared.

Our children and young people need more than a church that knows how to conduct a service. They need to see believers who genuinely love Jesus.

They need to see parents who pray, people who forgive, servants who give generously, and Christians who remain faithful when life is difficult.

C. Worship sends us back into the world.

True worship doesn't end with us feeling encouraged. It moves us toward obedience and mission.

When we see God's holiness, we become more aware of our need for His grace.

When we understand His love, we become more willing to love people who are difficult to love.

When we are filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we become more prepared to witness for Jesus.

A church rooted in worship should become a church that reflects Jesus to its community.

We worship Him together, and then we serve Him wherever He sends us.

Church, we don't gather simply to have a good service. We gather to glorify God, grow as disciples, and be equipped to live for Jesus throughout the week.

(Slide 9) Conclusion: What Does God See When He Looks at Our Worship?

Let's go back to the woman at the well.

She began the conversation with Jesus asking about a place of worship. But Jesus directed her to something deeper: the kind of worshiper the Father desires.

The issue wasn't simply where she worshiped. It was whether she understood the God she was being called to worship and was willing to respond to Him in spirit and truth.

That same question confronts us today.

We can have the right building, the right songs, and the right schedule. We can know how a church service is supposed to work.

True worship requires an honest response. As we enter a time of prayer, consider where God is inviting you to yield.

1. Ask The Holy Spirit to search your motives and prepare your heart
2. Confess what needs confessed and release your burdens into God's hands.
3. Align your life with the Word of God.

But the most important question is this:

(Slide 10) Are we becoming true worshipers?

Are our hearts turned toward God?

Are we allowing His Word to shape our lives?

Are we yielding to the Holy Spirit?

Are we worshiping when life is difficult, when nobody is watching, and when obedience costs us something?

Maybe today you realize that worship has become routine. You sing the songs, but your heart has been distracted.

Maybe you've been measuring worship by how you feel instead of remembering who God is.

Maybe you have been willing to worship God publicly but reluctant to surrender a private area of your life.

Or perhaps you have been trying to face life's struggles in your own strength rather than bringing them before the Lord.

Today is an opportunity to return your heart to Him.

God isn't asking you to put on a show. He is inviting you into a deeper relationship with Him.

Let's become people who worship in spirit and truth. Let's be rooted in worship so deeply that our lives reflect His goodness, our hearts remain surrendered to His Word, and our church points people to Jesus.

When worship becomes more than a song, it becomes the way we live.