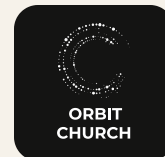


I Know THAT Messiah

2024-11-04 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



John 4

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

The Samaritan woman tried to start a debate about which mountain was the right place to worship. Jesus moved the whole question: God is looking for people who worship in spirit and in truth, anywhere. Pastor Matt named three things that keep people from knowing God. Tradition says we have always done it this way. Position says where I am disqualifies me. Condition says what I have done disqualifies me. Not one of the three survives a real meeting with Jesus.

To get started

- What is something about church you assumed was required, and later found out was not?

Looking back at the message

The three words are tradition, position, condition. Write them down before you discuss them.

- 1 Pastor Matt drew a line between ritual and relationship, calling rituals the things we do without thinking. Which of your spiritual habits has slipped into ritual?
- 2 Pastor Matt said you can worship God in a liturgical church, a gym, a big church, or a tiny one, because worship is about substance, not style. What style preference of yours has quietly become a requirement?
- 3 Pastor Matt admitted his old instinct when corrected was: you do not know what you are talking about. How do you usually take correction? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 4:19-26. The woman's question is a deflection and Jesus answers something better.

- 4 Read John 4:19-24. The woman asks about the right mountain. What does Jesus answer instead?
- 5 What does worshiping in spirit and in truth mean, in your own words?
- 6 Verse 23 says the Father is seeking such worshipers. What does it change that God is the one doing the seeking?
- 7 Read verses 25-26. This is one of the plainest things Jesus ever says about himself. Why do you think he said it to her? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Condition is the heaviest of the three. Give it room.

- 8 Tradition, position, condition. Which one is most in your way right now, and how?
- 9 Pastor Matt said the woman received what Jesus offered because she stayed open instead of shutting the conversation down. How open is your posture toward God right now?
- 10 What have you done that you secretly believe disqualifies you?
- 11 Where do you need a flexible mind instead of a fixed one this year? OPTIONAL

The group together

A group can carry traditions of its own. Ask what this one has picked up.

- 12 What traditions has this group built up, and which ones might be getting in the way?
- 13 How does this group stay open to being corrected by Scripture?
- 14 Who do you know whose past has convinced them they are not welcome at church?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one thing you have always assumed about God that you will hold up to Scripture this week?

You might pray about

- For people who believe their past disqualifies them
- For openness to correction
- For worship that does not depend on the setting