

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 4



BASIC TRAINING

Scripture Texts: John 4:19-24; Ephesians 3:16-19; James 5:8

God requires service from the heart. True worship must be from the heart and spirit. We are not children of God unless a work of God is done in our hearts.

The heart must be right and preparation made before we can be sent out on the battlefield. We must prove true in the small tests before we can be given greater responsibilities. We need to fix our hearts firmly in Jesus now to be prepared for persecution and for His coming.

MEMORY VERSE: *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. – Luke 24:49*

Inside Experience, Not Outside Form

John 4:19-24 Where should we worship? The woman's interest was aroused by Jesus' request for a drink, His offer of **living water**, and His knowledge of her past. Perhaps this man could settle a question which may have bothered her for some time. Was worship in Samaria's mountain acceptable to God? Would it bring God's favor upon her? Would worship from Jerusalem bring more favor upon her? **Jesus saith . . . the hour cometh**—God had prescribed in the law (**Exodus 25:8-9; 2 Chronicles 6:6; 2 Chronicles 7:12-16**) that worship should be in Jerusalem, first in the tabernacle, later in the temple. But these buildings were types of the spiritual order which was to characterize the Gospel dispensation now being brought in. In that hour or dispensation worship would be centered **neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem**. NO PLACE would make worship acceptable.

Salvation is of the Jews. It was to the Jews that God had given the earlier part of His plan which was to be fulfilled in the coming of Christ to bring salvation to all men, and make them spiritual Jews—an inside word (**Romans 2:28-29**).

How should we worship? **The hour cometh, and now is**,—right at that moment and from then on,—**true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit**—in their deepest, inmost being and with their feelings, emotions, motives, and will, rather than in outward places, buildings, ritualistic forms and furnishings . . . **and in truth**—in reality, honestly, without hypocrisy, felt rather than said only.

Preparation of the Heart

Christianity consists of what God does for man and of what man does for God in response. Can God need anything from the creature He has made and given His own breath? The answer is, yes. He desires his companionship. He hungers for his love. The nature of God requires worship to satisfy it. He created man for that purpose (**Revelation 4:11**). In fulfilling that purpose we will find our complete salvation and deepest joy. Is there a happier thought than that we can and may bring pleasure to God? Adam and Eve enjoyed that rich companionship with God as long as their hearts were responsive to His will, but sin destroyed that sweet fellowship.

Because God used tabernacle and temple and outward forms of service, we may think that in the law dispensation He desired outward worship. No, then, as now, He looked deep into hearts to find the gift that would satisfy Him. He commanded Israel to **fear and love and serve Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul (Deuteronomy 10:12)**. His eyes **run to and fro** seeking those **whose heart is perfect toward him (2 Chronicles 16:9)**. He said, **I search the heart, I try the reins (Jeremiah 17:10)**. He **desireth truth in the inward parts (Psalm 51:6)**,

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The Basics

Ephesians 3:16-19 Paul, writing from prison, tells us as beloved brethren how to be strong in the Lord and go forward to victory in the battle ahead. He tells us **to be strengthened . . . by his Spirit in the inner man . . . Christ may dwell in your hearts . . . rooted and grounded in love . . . be filled with all the fullness of God.** None of these are outward gifts of material things. They are inside things of the heart.

James 5:8 **Be ye . . . patient** (bearing or enduring without complaint expectant without discontent, not hasty, persevering, diligent, unwearied). Consider how patience fits one to fight the Christian warfare. Jesus, in warning of betrayal, persecution, and tribulation, said, **In your patience possess ye your souls (Luke 21:19).** Patience performs a **perfect work (James 1:4).** **Establish your hearts**—Before a hurricane, people fasten down their property, making it firm and sure so as to withstand the coming storm.

We need life and holiness and strength to meet the challenges of daily life and the threat of the storm which is upon us. Life and strength must have a source. Indications point to the approach of an intense struggle with Satan. To endure a time of trial, temptation, and tribulation, we need the Gospel and a genuine experience of salvation. This will draw increased persecutions to one. Satan hates the Gospel. But believing, accepting, and obeying it brings the living power of Christ into one. A Christian's diet has much to do with his power to stand in time of battle (**Hebrews 6:5**). By receiving the living power of Christ one is set free spiritually (**John 8:36**). He has that anchor of hope joining him with Heaven and holding him steady (**Hebrews 6:19**).

Friend, repent and open your heart to the Savior. Take Him. Be prepared for whatever may come.

JUST A THOUGHT

**"If one cannot find peace within, it is useless
to seek for it elsewhere." –M.F. Boyd**