"One and Done"

The Ministry of the Spirit October 11, 2026

John 4:23-24 [23] 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."

"The Real Housewives of Samaria"

…In John 4 …Jesus is going to have the Longest Conversation with any one person in all the Gospels! …Critical to our 3 vocabulary words is HER STORY! [...Her life, her experiences, her feelings are the stuff of our own stories and social media posts. ...Consider what SHE brings to this conversation—and what JESUS brings]

v. 7-24

Thirst & Worship

She Comes to The Well with "THIRST" on her mind—she leaves thinking about "WORSHIP" …At the end of this story we are made aware of a "Powerful-Life-Insight" ...**Man is "seeking" something ("Thirst") and God is "seeking" something ("Worship")** ...And from the Wise Testimony of Scripture—THESE ARE RELATED!

"Thirst & Worship Revealed in the Psalms …We like the Psalms because they're "REAL", they "GET US", they "BLEED Human Experience"!!

> "I am asking about the experience of saving faith—what are the conscious dynamics of it? What is it like in the head?—the reason? What is it like in the heart—the affections? What is it like to experience it? ...All I imply by the word 'experience' is that faith happens in us, and when it does, it is a conscious event, and we are involved with it. And I mean 'morally' involved—not the way we are involved with a sneeze or a headache. ...It is something taking place in the mind and will. The thinking of the mind and the inclining of the will are involved. ...Faith is not a theory. It is not an idea. It is 'experienced' in the mind and heart, or we are not saved. That is important." "...I want to know if there is in the very nature of saving faith some kind of 'affectional' element. That is, does saving faith include any element of love for Christ, or admiration, or adoration, or treasuring, or cherishing, or delighting, or satisfaction, or thankfulness, or revering? All these words are affectional. They represent experiences in the human soul that I am calling 'affections.' **John Piper**, "What is Saving Faith?", p. 12-13

A Life of ONE THING …Among Many Things

?? – How Do You Understand "Worship"?? ...Worship is a "One Thing Obsession" (even in the midst of many other things)

DAVID... was a Man of Many Things, Yet He was a Man of ONE THING! ...He was a son & brother, a shepherd, a musician, a song writer, ...he was a husband, a father, a friend ...he was a warrior, a risk taker, a leader, a reformer, a King, a national ambassador, a general, …YET, he was uniquely a man of ONE THING

Ps 27:4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

?? – How do you/I hear such lofty calls to devotion?

... **Life rightly contains many things… But worship is about one thing!** ... David rightly lived a multifaceted life with great accomplishments, great responsibilities, great talents, great achievements… Our lives should have excellence and eagerness and weighty pursuits, but our affection and honoring and valuing of God himself should sit in a status that is unique

...**Does the BIBLE present this "ONE THING" as an "Exclusive Aspect" of Our Existence?**

?? - Was it David's ambition in life to liquidate all his possessions, abandon all his titles, minimize his responsibilities, isolate himself from human contact and live a life that was "EXCLUSIVELY" in a picture frame with God Alone?

?? - What was the Purpose/Design of Adam & Eve?

-- Human Activity, Pursuits, & Existence is <u>not</u> to be "ELIMINATED" so that we might become "Worshipers"...It is all to be set in the Shadow of the ONE THING!!

> "...everything from quarks to quasars, from butterflies to baseballs, were created and are sustained so that you and I might delight in the display of divine glory. Only humans are fashioned in the image of God. We alone have been endowed with the capacity to glorify him by rejoicing in the beauty of his creative handiwork and relishing the splendor of his self-revelation in the person and redemptive work of his Son." **Sam Storms**, "One Thing", p. 20

...So "WORSHIP" is not about "Isolating" Ourselves from all People, Places, and Things—and ONLY Interacting with God! ...But the beginning place of understanding "Worship" is the creation of a "Unique", "Ultimate", "ONE THING" category that sits apart from and above EVERYTHING!

> "...worship means consciously knowing and treasuring and showing the supreme worth and beauty of God. (p. 17) ...Do you agree that the inner essence of worship is savoring the glory of God in Christ, or being satisfied with all that God is for you in Jesus? ...I am saying the 'essence,' not the totality. ...the 'essence' of worship is the heart's experience of affections that magnify the beauty and worth of God. This is true whether worship is thought of as the obedience to Christ in daily life, or as the tasks of church ministry, or as the gathering for corporate praise." **John Piper**, "Expository Exultation", p. 26

There is a Divine Sequence Designed into Our Lives: Ex 20:1-2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have <u>no other gods before me</u>.

PAUL… Discovered how this "Divine Sequence" created both "Value & Order" in His Life!

Php 3:4-10 ...PAUL described finding something that was the One Thing that was strangely more valuable than EVERYTHING Else in his life!

> "...the inner essence of worship is cherishing Christ as gain--indeed as more gain than all that life can offer—family, career, retirement, fame, food, friends. The essence of worship is experiencing Christ as more gain than all that life can give." **John Piper,** "Expository Exultation", p. 30

...**David would understand that his "THIRST" was related to His "WORSHIP" (his life-obsession)** ...

Psalms 63:1-4

1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

- "You are my God" = You are my "ultimate"—my "One Thing"!
- **The "Vocabulary" of Worship contains weight & intensity** -

> "If all we do is think about God, even if our thoughts are accurate, we're better off not thinking at all. Telling others what we think isn't much better. The reason why we think about God and tell others what we've thought is so that all of us might relish the very idea of Him and rejoice that so great a God is actually ours." **Sam Storms**, "One Thing", p. 11

- ...O GOD, You are MY GOD!!!
- v. 8 ... "my soul clings to you"

?? - How Much would the Woman at the Well have benefitted in her life from knowing what her "THIRST" was really seeking?!!

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

- **Worship is a "looking upon" thing**! ...we are creatures who are in need of "Taking Things In"!! We NEED to SEE something! ... "beholding your power and glory" (my soul needs protein & amino acids--NOT just pop-culture, TikTok, ungodly Influencer TWODDLE!! ...my soul needs "Spiritual Substance—NOT mere Sensationalism")
- **Worship needs "Sanctuaries"!** (More on this next week) ...Eden was a Sanctuary (Adam met with God) ...Mt. Sinai was a Sanctuary (Moses met the presence of God) ...The Tabernacle/Temple was a Sanctuary

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

- **Worship has "REALIZATION"—** "BECAUSE ... BETTER THAN!!" ...Holy Spirit given revelation that drowns out the "background noise" of my life! ...Moments where the most real thing is: "Your 'hesed' is BETTER than life" ...
  - v. 6 ... *"I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night"*
  - v. 9 ... *"But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth"*
- **Worship needs "EXPRESSION"** ... "my lips will praise you"
  - v. 4 ... "I will bless you" ... "I will lift up my hands"
  - v. 5 ... "my mouth will praise you with joyful lips"
  - v. 7 ... "I will sing for joy"

> "I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation." **C.S. Lewis**, 'A Word about Praising' in 'Reflections on the Psalms'

4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

- **Worship needs a DEPTH of Effect** ... "SO (an ability to summarize & conclude things!)... I will bless you as long as I live"
  - v. 5 ... ***"my soul will be SATISFIED"***

...The Language of this thing called "WORSHIP" is extreme! ...all-consuming! ...obsessive! …deep …penetrating ...impacting & effective!

> …does saving faith include any element of love for Christ, or admiration, or adoration, or treasuring, or cherishing, or delighting, or satisfaction, or thankfulness, or revering? All these words are affectional. They represent experiences in the human soul…' **John Piper**, "What is Saving Faith?", p. 12-13

...At the end of the day, this woman's "Life & Social Issues" are inseparable from her "Thirst & Worship Issues"!! ...and so are ours! …SHE could have authored Paul Tripp's book "Awe" [Insert her…]

"Our hearts are always captured by something—that's how God made us. …All too often, we stand in awe of everything *but* God. …I wrote this book for me because, at this point in my life, I am more aware than ever that I have a fickle and wandering heart. …I wrote this book for me because I need to examine what kind of awe shapes my thoughts, desires, words, choices, and actions in the situations and relationships that make up my everyday life. …I wrote this book for me because I came to see that I was wired for awe, that awe of something sits at the bottom of everything I say and do. But I wasn't just wired for awe. I was wired for awe of God. No other awe satisfies the soul." **Paul David Tripp**, "Awe", p. 11-12