

Where God Puts His Name

John 4:19-26

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

I. Introduction

1. Three weeks ago I preached on The Overcoming Church and its significant role as a restraining force of the evil that will overwhelm the world in the tribulation period.
2. When the church is removed at the Lord's return, it will have a similar effect on this world as a dam being removed, for a flood of evil influence will spread through worldwide governance.
3. The church was called to be a restraining force of evil.
4. Jesus stopped devils and so did the early church.
5. And even the church in our generation is seeing people coming out of the bondage of drugs, alcohol, sin of all types, and finding Jesus as the power to deliver them from that bondage.
6. And then two weeks ago we spoke about the Wonderful Great Place, that place with God where as individuals we can find peace with God, freedom from condemnation, joy, pleasures, and a great future.
7. This overcoming church is a wonderful great place to be in such a time as this.
8. Last week, on Fathers' Day, I spoke on Groaning for Father's House, about the longing in the hearts of all peoples for the pure and beautiful dwelling we will have with God in the mansions He is building for us.
9. But until that time, we can here and now be filled with the Holy Ghost, the earnest of that inheritance, or a foretaste of what God will allow us to enjoy for eternity.
10. I brought this summary of recent messages together because I feel what has been happening in my spirit can be compared to a person being given a pair of binoculars.
11. As the focus has been adjusted more precisely, a clearer picture of what is before us, our times, and the needs of these times is forming.
12. The clearer picture is this: The anxiety and longing that our world is desperately reaching out for, is a desperation to be connected to God's name.
13. God is looking for a place to put His name, and in putting His name there, it totally changes the life of that person.

14. The woman at the well thought it boiled down to national geographics: her nationality and her geography.
 15. But Jesus said it had more to do with a place where He could put His name—on a heart that worshiped Him in spirit and truth that could be changed by His Spirit.
 16. A place where God puts His name.
- II. The temple and God's name
- A. King David
1. Let me take you back to King David to introduce this idea of a place for His name.
 2. David wanted to find a way to honor the God who had honored him by making him king.
 3. About a month ago I preached about how a plague had struck Israel killing 70,000 people. The plague ceased when David built an altar and offered a sacrifice at a place that had been the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
 4. After David purchased that land, he offered the sacrifice, and the plague stopped right there.
 5. But to David, it was bigger than that day, it was bigger than that plague, it was even going to bigger than just his people. A house to the Lord and His name was to be built there:
1 Chron 22:1 Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel.
 6. David commanded the princes of Israel to help Solomon build a temple to the LORD:
*1 Chron 22:19 Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be **built to the name of the LORD.***
 7. And we read this verse a few weeks ago about this house that shall be wonderful great:
2 Chron 2:9 Even to prepare me timber in abundance: for the house which I am about to build shall be wonderful great.
 8. What the world needs now, David was saying, was a wonderful great house built to God's name. Because for all of history, God was wanting a place to put His name.
- B. King Solomon
1. So when Solomon became king, he build that house, and as he was dedicating that temple to God's name, he said:
1 Kings 8:12-19
*12 Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would **dwell in thick darkness.***
 2. In the beginning God dwelled in darkness, but wanted more than that. Solomon went on to say:
*13 I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, **a settled [or lofty] place for thee to abide in for ever.***
14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood;)
15 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying,

16 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.

*17 And it was in the heart of David my father to **build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.***

*18 And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to **build an house unto my name,** thou didst well that it was in thine heart.*

*19 Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but **thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.***

3. God wanted a house built to His name, a place for Him to dwell in, a place where He could commune with His people forever.
4. And since this was the first time of actually building a permanent structure for God, the focus was on this particular geographic place with a longitude and latitude that could be pinpointed. This place was the city of Jerusalem on a mount once called Mount Moriah.
5. And it was focused on a particular people, the Jewish people. It was national, and it was geographic.
6. People were trying to get a focus on what God wanted, and it looked as though God wanted this particular spot to be the place, and these people were to be the chosen people.

C. Dedication day

1. So Solomon prayed and dedicated that place to God, and God spoke to the people that day:

*1 Kings 9:3 And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: **I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.***

2. In fact, after Solomon dedicated the temple, and the worship band played and the praise team sang, God settled His glorious presence there in that place built to His name:

2 Chron 5:13-14

*13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the **house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;***

*14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the **glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.***

3. That was God's intent at this time. To go from dwelling in the thick darkness, to dwelling with the children of Israel in the temple Solomon built there in Jerusalem.
4. That is because God wanted a place to put His name.
5. So when that temple was built, God put His name in that city and in that building and dwelled among His people over the Ark of the Covenant between the two cherubs over the lid of that Ark.
6. It was at that temple that God would be honored above all of the gods of the Canaanites, and all people would know that Israel's God was the true God.
7. But God wanted His influence to stretch well beyond that place.

D. Warning

1. Because of the importance of that place where God would put His name, God gave a warning about what would happen if the people of His name fell into wickedness and perverseness.

1 Kings 8:46-50

*46 If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they **carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy**, far or near;*

*47 Yet if they shall **bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent**, and make supplication unto thee **in the land** of them that carried them captives, saying, **We have sinned**, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;*

*48 And so **return unto thee with all their heart**, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, **and pray unto thee toward their land**, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and **the house which I have built for thy name**:*

49 Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,

*50 And **forgive thy people** that have sinned against thee and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:*

2. With that warning for backsliding, God was offering a way back to Him that involved repenting and fully turning their hearts back to God and that place where God put His name.
3. And God would forgive and have compassion on them.
4. I want to point out what happened when the people did as God had warned.
5. Future kings after Solomon arose who turned their backs on God. And not just a little bit, in a huge way that disrespected God, His name, and that place where His name dwelt.

E. King Manasseh

1. I want to particularly look at King Manasseh, a notorious example of bad kings who forgot the importance of the place and the name.

2 Kings 21:1-7

21 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzi-bah.

*2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the **LORD**, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.*

*3 For he **built up again the high places** which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he **reared up altars for Baal**, and **made a grove**, as did Ahab king of Israel; and **worshipped all the host of heaven**, and served them.*

*4 And he **built altars in the house of the LORD**, of which the **LORD** said, **In Jerusalem will I put my name**.*

*5 And he built **altars for all the host of heaven** in the two courts of the house of the **LORD**.*

*6 And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used **enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards**: he wrought much wickedness*

in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

*7 And he **set a graven image** of the grove that he had made **in the house**, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, *In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, **will I put my name for ever:****

2. In this holy place where God chose to put His name, all kinds of ungodly pollutions were set up.
3. High places and groves were set up around Jerusalem to worship false gods.
4. But right there in the temple itself, that place Solomon had dedicated to the name of God forever, Manasseh built altars to false gods, and participated in what we might call black magic and wizardry.
5. The vileness of Manasseh's sins exceeded others before him because he took very lightly the honor of that place where God's name had been placed.
6. Imagine that holy place built unto God's name that had been filled with God's presence on that day of dedication years before, so strongly that God's priests could not even minister.
7. Now it was defiled!
8. Within a few generations, that temple was destroyed and the Israelites were taken away into foreign lands as prisoners of war.
9. Why? That generation forgot the importance of the place built to the Lord's name.

III. Conclusion

1. I want to conclude with the story we began with.
2. Jesus was speaking with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. She was a woman whose life of sin had made her an outcast among her own people.
3. You could say that she had disregarded God's name, and defiled her house in a major way.
4. Yet now Jesus was talking to her.
5. She was defensive in her responses to Jesus' conversation with her, which reveals something of the distrust she had rising out of her history of harm from many people.
6. While she seemed to try to keep the conversation superficial on popular cultural and religious arguments of the day, Jesus brought her along to looking more deeply at her own heart, that place where God wanted to put His name:

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21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

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23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

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he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

7. Do you know how to put God's name on you so that you can seek God in spirit and truth anywhere?
8. There standing before her was the Messiah who had come to tell her all things.
9. Get over nationality; get over geography; it is not about race, it is not about your city, it is about a spot on your soul where God can place his name.
10. God instructed Israel how to return to Him. Repent, turn your heart back to that place where God put His name.
11. I can say to you that this morning, you can put God's name on your heart by calling on His name, and having God's name called over you in baptism.