



*CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.*

*CtK in Worship—Empowerment to Grow—Relationships Bring Life—Honor in Service  
In His Presence—Sharing Jesus in Love—CtK in Mission*

**Day 1—Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**CtK in Worship**  
**Prayer Focus—Worship Teams**

***Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 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. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.***

***John 4:21-24 (ESV)***

I treasure our home here at Christ the King. I value the times we come together at the end of weeks that are hard (and joyful) to share in the ways God has moved in our lives. I treasure that we are growing as we invest in a relationship with God, and one another. I recognize the opportunities he presents us to give grace and mercy to one another. All of this takes time and connection. It’s why God urges never to neglect gathering together. Our shared pain and joy has great power to unite us if we run first to our merciful Father, receive his grace, and give that grace to one another. It starts with our worship of Him.

As I read today’s scripture, I wondered what Jesus meant with his answer to the Samaritan woman’s comment on places of worship. Jesus has a way of uncomplicating things for us—he enters a situation and he simply speaks to the heart of the matter. I’m sure the woman at the well had many questions for Jesus, but he reached through her thoughts and pain and spoke into her very heart. He walked her past the *where* of worship and placed her at the heart of worship. True worship is from our spirit to God’s spirit as we honestly bring to him the ugly and beautiful truths we hold in our hearts on any given day. Jesus made the way for us to do this through his death on that tortuous cross. He died to give us access to Holy God, and to grow into the purest most acceptable form of worship to our Father.

We can approach God, truthfully, right where we are—bruised, broken, happy, sad, discouraged, angry, bitter—and we can express our endless need for him. We can do this anywhere we find ourselves and we can receive mercy. Our posture of true worship will come from a heart that knows its Creator.

From one of my favorite worship songs comes the line, *I can’t outrun this heart I’m tethered to, when every step I collide with you*. When we get to know our Father through his Word, we will know who it is we worship, and we will want to honor him above everything else. Our hearts will be tethered to him. It is an investment in this most beautiful and primary of relationships. He knows us and his love for us is fierce. Let that sink in and let this good, good Father of ours receive our true worship!

*Holy and Beautiful Father, I pray today that you will draw us to your heart as a family, and you will unite us in worship of you. I pray that our worship teams will continue to grow in their passion for you, and the joy of praising you will permeate their lives. I pray their joy will infect this entire community, and above all, your heart will be blessed. And all the people said, AMEN!*

Lisa McClure

