

# Leaving Gerizim

Joy! Church | 9.24.23  
We love you. Yes, you



## Gerizim: Significant then, significant now

- Samaritans: Region, culture, practices, landmarks, altars
- Location: Israel, disputed West Bank area
  - Mt. Ebal north; Mt. Gerizim south; city of Nablus (Shechem) between
- Abraham: Prepared to sacrifice his son Jacob (saved by God & ram)
  - The mountain they climbed was Mt. Gerizim
- Israelites upon first entering Canaan: celebrated event
  - Cursings on Mt. Ebal; blessings on Mt. Gerizim (Deuteronomy)
- Rich in history and archaeology. 3 Samaritan holy days still today
- Rich in symbolism and powerful, present-tense parable

## Kingdom dynamic: Position is everything

- Proximity provides Presence, Peace, Purity, Priorities and Power
- Pride pulls us out of proximity and position, toward exile\*\*
- 3 of many paths home (exodus). Distinct, yet in harmony
  1. Thanksgiving. (gratitude out loud; communion [eucharist], etc.)
  2. Praise. (joyful noise, exalt, exult, dance, flag, paint, clap, shout, etc.)  
Great start: Psalms 66-68; 98-101; 145-150
  3. **Worship.** (bow down, surrender, vulnerable, revere, breathe in)

\*\* Pride: 3 recent powerful messages, invest in them @ [www.joychurch.life](http://www.joychurch.life)

- Pride, Pastor Matt McCreary, 8/20/23
- How To Know And What To Do. Pride, Part 2, 8/27/23
- Repentance's Reward. Pride, Part 3, 9/3/23

## Bye Bye Gerizim. Hello Spirit and Truth!

- How we exit will be how we enter
  - The atmosphere we carry is the atmosphere we'll create
  - What we sow we reap
  - What we carry we conceive
- We control only 4 things: Our thoughts, words, time and choices.
  - Every "YES" counts. A righteous yes spawns many righteous no's
- Tridimensionality (Every act affects 3 dimensions, or kingdoms)
  - Heaven: Unseen, holy realm. God and His loyal created hosts
  - Earth: Natural realm, kingdoms of this world, interpersonal influence
  - Demonic: Unseen, unholy realm. Evil schemes, rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms

## Table Time

10 minutes. Read some or all aloud: John 4:1-26 - **esp. verses 21-26**

20 minutes. Considering this morning's verses and message, discuss:

- 1) What stood out to you or what was significant to you?
- 2) Was Jesus more deeply revealed to you? If so, in what way(s)?  
*What He is like – His nature, His character; what He really think of us, etc.*

10 minutes: Personal, private writing time. Goal: Gain insight.

Use notepad, journal or index card(s). *Ask Holy Spirit to help reveal to you:*

**What interferes with my worshiping in spirit and in truth?**

Here are some "normal" or commonplace things:

Others' opinions. Others' expectations. Self-protection. Self-defense. Self-desires. Self-promotion. Family dynamics or pressures. Unhealed wounds or grief. Hurts, hangups or habits. Shame, regret or guilt. Sense of unworthiness. Fear or anxiety. Financial status or worries. Compulsions or addictions.