

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Sermon Delivered on November 19th, 2017
AM Service

By: Pastor Greg Hocson

Text:

Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2: Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3: Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5: For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Introduction

As a nation, we set aside one day a year for Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving Day is a unique holiday. It is not a remembrance of an event or celebration of anyone's birthday or anniversary. It is simply a day set aside for our nation to express thanks to God. Let us commemorate this Thanksgiving Day by looking at Psalm 100.

Psalm 100 is one of the most favorite psalms among Christians. It is second to Psalm 23 in popularity. Psalm 100 is called "A Psalm of Praise" or "A Psalm of Thanksgiving." There are other psalms that focus on praise and thanksgiving, but this is the only psalm that is labeled as "A Psalm of Praise" or "A Psalm of Thanksgiving." Through this psalm we are reminded that **we must worship; how we must worship and why we must worship.**

I - The Invitation to Worship

Through Psalm 100, you and I are called to worship.

Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2: Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Not only are we called to worship; we are even told how to worship.

1. Shout joyfully!

Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

Here we are called to **shout for joy unto the LORD**, to **shout triumphantly to the LORD**. Sometimes worship can be loud. I am not talking about craziness and chaos. I am talking about a spontaneous loud amen when you agree with what is said.

We are not raising our voices to draw attention to ourselves. We shout for joy because **the LORD is among us**. We shout for joy because **we are on the winning side**. We shout for joy because **we are more than conquerors** through Him that loved us.

Hopefully, your excitement for the LORD will match that of sports, or whatever it is you shout for joy about.

2. Serve with gladness!

Psalm 100:2 **Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.**

This verse is telling us that we are to serve the LORD with gladness! **We are to be so filled with love for Him that regardless of what He asks us to do, we are glad to do it!** This is the attitude that filled David's heart in ...

Psalm 122:1 **I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.**

He was filled with joy when it was time to be in the house of God!

Psalm 16:11 **Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.**

To David, serving the LORD is **not a burden to bear but a blessing to enjoy!** Serving the LORD to David is not a matter of obligation and force; not with reluctance, moroseness, or gloom. But it was a cheerful, happy service; gladly rendered. The service of God is a source of the highest joy to David.

3. Sing as you come!

Psalm 100:2 **Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.**

Here is an invitation to come before the presence of God with singing. When we come before the presence of God with singing, we must **come with joyful songs.** Our hearts should be **so filled with the wonder of Who God is and what He has done for us that our hearts burst forth into singing.** And we sing not to create our gladness, but to express it.

There are 575 references to praise, singing, and music found in the Bible. Music plays an important part of our worship to God. But we must be careful that in singing we worship God. The danger, I fear, is that in many churches and for **many individual believers instead of worshipping God they worship the music.** Music is a means to express what is in the heart and to prepare the heart for worship.

Then we read in ...

Psalm 100:4 **Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.**

We are to enter into His gates with thanksgiving. **As we walk into the house of God, we are to be filled with thanksgiving.** We are going into the presence of God, we are to cultivate a spirit of thanksgiving even as we gather for worship. So **we are not to enter the house of God casually and with indifference.** We are not to enter the house of God at the very last second, dispassionate and disinterested. We are to prepare our heart before we enter into the courts of God with thanksgiving.

At the heart of a worshipper is thankfulness. When we come to worship we can't help but thank God for Who He is and what He has done. Notice the repetition in verse four. Giving thanks to God and praising Him are stated twice. It is repeated so that we will not miss its importance.

II - The Explanation for Worship

Through this Psalm we are called to make a joyful noise unto the LORD, serve the LORD with gladness, come before his presence with singing, enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: and be thankful unto Him and bless His name. But you may be wondering, **how can we do that?** In order to render acceptable and joyful worship, praise and thanksgiving to God we must know something. **Worship, praise and thanksgiving do not come from an empty head and an empty heart.**

In order to shout with joy to the LORD, serve with gladness, sing with joy, praise and give thanks and bless God's Name we must know ...

1. The LORD is God

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that **the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Acknowledge that the LORD is God. **We are to know that He and He alone is God!** Here we pause to recognize that we are entering into the presence of the Supreme Being. He is God and we are not and this implies **we are completely dependent on Him for everything.**

2. The LORD is our Maker

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: **it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

He is the Creator; we are the created. We did not make ourselves. We owe our very existence to God.

Acts 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Psalm 95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

3. The LORD is our Sustainer

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; **we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

He is the shepherd; we are the sheep. As our Shepherd, He provides green pasture and still water and protection from wolves and guidance through dangerous valleys.

We are "the sheep of His pasture". This statement simply reminds us that we belong to Him and just as a shepherd looks after the welfare of his sheep, so our LORD looks after us with infinite care. David had this nailed down in his own life, Psalm 23. You and I need to get it nailed down in our lives also.

Psalm 79:13 **So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.**

4. The LORD is Good

Psalm 100:5 **For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

We are told that the Lord is "good." Everything about God is good. But not only is His character good, His ways are good. Everything God does is good. His **plans** are good, His **purpose** is good, His **providence** is good, His **provision** is good, His **protection** is good, and His **pardon** is good. All that God does is good.

James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Which means God is good all the time. Regardless of what happens in life, God is good! No matter how things turn out, God is still good! We can praise our God because He is good!

5. The LORD is Merciful

Psalm 100:5 **For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

God in His mercy did not give what we deserved but instead He gave what we did not deserve.

6. The LORD is Faithful

Psalm 100:5 **For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

God is not fickle or forgetful. He does not change His purpose or break His promises.

Brothers and sisters we have so much reasons to be filled with praise and gratitude. As you and I celebrate thanksgiving Day, may we think hard upon these things. If you don't think, you won't thank.

Psalm 100:1 **Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2: Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3: Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5: For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

Closing Thoughts

The LORD is inviting us to "come into His presence." What an invitation! What a privilege! God is willing to meet us but we need to come into His presence with heart and mind, body and soul wholly engaged. And it starts by knowing God. Do you know this God who invites you into His presence? Is your God the God of the Bible? You might wonder how you can know.

John 17:3 **And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

Come to Jesus. He came to show us the Father.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7: If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8: Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9: Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10: Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11: Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

AMEN!