

INTRO: Today, I would like for you to turn in your Hebrew Hymnal, otherwise known as the Book of Psalms, to Psalm 100. Psalm 100 is known as THE PSALM OF THANKSGIVING. This morning I want to preach on THE SIMPLICITY OF THANKSGIVING. Read with me from this beautiful Psalm...

PSALM 100.

- 1 *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth!*
- 2 *Serve the Lord with gladness;
come before His presence with singing.*
- 3 *Know that the Lord, He is God;
it is He who has 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 to Him, and bless His name.*
- 5 *For the Lord is good; His mercy endures forever.
and His faithfulness to all generations.*

Before we get into the sermon I need you to visualize what's going on in our text. Here in this short chapter, we have the WHAT and WHY of WORSHIP. And this formula is offered to us twice, in repetitive form. You must remember, this is a song. It was meant to be sung. There is a definite melodic tone and theme here.

This is what would be known today as a PRAISE and WORSHIP song. Those of the Levite Tribe would have sang this Psalm, along with others, during Temple services. It would have been sang repetitively several times, over and over again. It would have, more than likely, been sung antiphonally, with the Levites singing the first section and the congregation responding with the second.

I want you to see the WHAT and WHY of these verses. So, very quickly, let's read together, and notice the two sections.

VV 1-2 - Here we see the WHAT. WHAT should worship look like. **CIRCLE THOSE VV.**

V 3 - Gives us the WHY of the first section. **UNDERLINE THAT VERSE.**

V 4 - We again have the WHAT. **CIRCLE v 4**

V 5 - Gives us the response or WHY of the second section. **UNDERLINE IT.**

Now, let's read it again with this new appreciation and hear it's message.

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Notice:

1) THE WHAT: vv 1-2, 4

1) *"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord"* What does this mean? Many have speculated through the years. Some have even used this verse to defend their poor ability to sing :) but let's find out for sure what is meant.

"joyful noise" (Heb. rua, roo-ah') The word has a few meanings; a jubilant shout, a battle cry, shout in applause or with other expression.

Joyful noise is a perfect translation. In Joshua 6 we have the Israelites shouting along with the trumpet blast bringing down the walls of Jericho. Same word as used here.

2) *"Serve the Lord with gladness"* This is the declaration that when we come to the House of God to worship, we come here for Him, not us. We come to offer our thanksgiving, our praise, ourselves to Him. WE COME HERE TO SERVE!

When you come to God, you should come as CONTRIBUTORS, not CONSUMERS. Sadly, most people come to church for what they get out of it. When the church stops meeting their needs, they move on.

3) *"come before His presence with singing"*

4) *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving"* Modern equivalent - Parking lot

5) *"and into His courts with praise"* Modern equivalent - Church house

6) *"be thankful to Him"*

7) *"and bless His name"* In Scripture when God "blesses" men they are thereby helped and strengthened and made better off than they were before. But when men "bless" God he is not helped or strengthened or made better off. Rather man's blessing God is an expression of worship. When the OT speaks of blessing God, it does not designate a process that aims at the increase of God's strength. It is an exclamation of gratitude and admiration!

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I) THE WHAT: vv 1-2, 4

II) THE WHY: vv 3, 5

1) *"the Lord, He is God"* He is GOD! When we come here, the first thing we do is acknowledge that GOD IS! In our culture, that is one of the strongest reasons for our gathering together to worship, to tell the world that GOD IS and that He is worthy of our praise.

Let that sink in. When we let every little thing keep us from coming to church, we are telling those within our sphere of influence that God isn't as important as those things. BUT LISTEN TO ME...the fact that HE IS GOD should trump everything else in our lives.

2) *"it is He who has made us"* He is CREATOR! There is only one creator. Science can replicate, artist can emulate, constructors can fabricate, and hypocrites can imitate, BUT ONLY GOD CAN CREATE!

3) *"we are His people"* He is LORD! We are His subjects.

4) *"the sheep of His pasture"* He is SHEPHERD! He tends to our needs.

5) *"the Lord is good"* He's a good, good, FATHER!

6) *"His mercy endures forever"* He is KIND!

7) *"His faithfulness to all generations"* He's TRUSTWORTHY!

CONCLUSION: Maybe you have never seen the need to trust in God until today. Maybe this list of WHYS have touched your heart and God is gently speaking to you about a change in your life. Why don't you stop running from Him, and turn to Him today. Would you ask Him into your heart? Let me help you.