

LESSON 5

OCTOBER 3, 2021

UNIT II. CALLED TO PRAISE GOD

“ONLY YOU”

DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 66:1-7

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Psalm 100

PRINT PASSAGE: Psalm 100:1-5

KEY VERSE

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. (Psalm 100:3, KJV)

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Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (Psalm 100:3, NIV)

LESSON AIMS

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Understand why and how God is to be worshipped, as found in Psalm 100.
- Appreciate that God is worthy to be praised.
- Create a psalm of praise for the Lord.

KEY TERMS

Enter (verse 4)—Hebrew: *bo* (bo): to come, come in, go in, go.

Everlasting (verse 5)—Hebrew: *olam* (o-lawm’): long duration; antiquity; futurity; “forever” (NIV).

Gladness (verse 2)—Hebrew: *simchah* (sim-khaw’): joy; gladness; mirth.

Know (verse 3)—Hebrew: *yada* (yaw-dah’): to know, acknowledge.

Praise (verse 4)—Hebrew: *tehillah* (teh-hil-law’): praise; song of praise; adoration.

Serve (verse 2)—Hebrew: *abad* (aw-bad’): to work, serve; “worship” (NIV).

INTRODUCTION

Each person is uniquely created and gifted by God. Our desires, likes, and dislikes are all unique to us as individuals. People can be born to and raised in the same household yet have completely opposite tastes from their siblings. Even more intriguing is that researchers have noted that multiple-birth siblings (twins, triplets, etc.), fraternal or identical, do not always have similar traits, likes, or preferences. This points to the unique design of every living soul. Despite bloodlines, physical resemblance, nature or nurture, every single person is uniquely created in the image of God with a divinely ordained destiny and purpose. Whether you know it and believe it or not, the highest purpose of your life is to bring glory to God. Even though we worship God in community, God saves each soul as an individual. Everyone will stand and give account to Him for the deeds of his or her own life. No one can be saved without knowing God for himself/herself. Your praise belongs to you. You must speak your own prayers. Your testimony must be your own. The phrasing might be the same or similar, but each word must rise from within your own heart. God is listening to hear your personal praise for what He has done for you.

THE BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Psalm 100 deals with the essentials of worship. It is a psalm of praise, also referred to as a psalm of thanksgiving. It is the only psalm bearing this title and invites and invokes all of the earth to praise the Lord. In this psalm, we have a double call to worship which characterizes this brief but eloquent hymn of praise. It is perhaps one of the most frequently recited passages in Scripture. The psalm was undoubtedly used as a processional hymn and appears to have been written for this purpose. The psalm opens with several brief statements regarding the doctrine of Judaism and key reminders regarding the divine character. God, our Creator, is good, loving, and forever faithful. Because of who He is and what He has done, God is worthy of our worship and perpetual praise.

ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT BECAUSE HE MADE US (PSALM 100:1-3)

KJV

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.

NIV

SHOUT FOR joy to the LORD, all the earth.

2 *Worship* the LORD with *gladness*; come before him with joyful songs.

3 *Know* that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

The writer of this very traditional Hebrew psalm encouraged the faithful to exalt the Lord and to praise Him. Without any preliminaries, the psalm begins with an exhortation to shout and make a joyful noise to the Lord (**verse 1**). Most scholars have assigned an anonymous authorship to this psalm, while others attribute it to Moses or King David. It is pointless to focus on authorship and miss the writer's compelling point—that everyone should praise the Lord with “a joyful noise.” The psalmist clearly connects the making of a joyful noise with the practices of public worship, likely singing and shouts of praise (**verse 2**). Clearly this charge is not just for the choir, but for every worshipper of God. Every believer should have a joyful song in his/her heart and on his/her lips. Singing to God is more meaningful when you know the Lord—the God who made, claimed, and sustains us. This is the proclamation of **verse 3**: the Lord is both God and creator. The psalmist declares that not only did the Lord make us, but He also claims us as His own as He leads and cares for us like a shepherd caring for his sheep. God is well-deserving of our praise because He has done these great things for us. He claims us as His own people as He provides for our needs and covers us with His enduring love and eternal faithfulness. There are many good reasons to celebrate the Lord and make a joyful noise in His presence.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Does knowing God require giving up comfort in life? Explain.

BECAUSE HE “MERCIED” US (PSALM 100:4-5)

KJV

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.

NIV

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with *praise*; give thanks to him and praise his name.

5 For the LORD is good and his love endures *forever*; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

The psalmist continues with a second summons or call to worship. He reminds worshippers to lift up thanks and praises to God as they enter the gates of the Lord (**verse 4**). While gates and courts can easily be viewed as two separate things, they should also be viewed as two connected things. All who enter the gate find themselves immediately in the courts. The psalmist is not calling for two separate worship expressions, but one continuous, unifying worship experience. Believers should come before Him, as stated in verse 1, with a worship marked by thanksgiving and praise. For sake of clarity, the psalmist calls the congregation to give God thanks and praise His name (**verse 4**). Singing is an effective and meaningful expression of worship. The primary purpose of worship songs is to give God the honor He deserves. Sacred singing should never, ever showcase the singer (or musicians) more than the Lord. The music's purpose is to transport the worshipper(s) into deeper devotion, allowing them to reflect on the lyrics and sense the Spirit's presence. Entering the Lord's sanctuary is a privilege that we should not take lightly. At the time the psalm was written, the king's court was never open and accessible to the general public. It is an honor to be in the Lord's presence, one that we should never dismiss or take lightly.

In the first section of this short psalm, the writer calls the congregation to worship simply for no other reason than that God made us and is forever merciful toward us. “The LORD is good,” declares the psalmist, “and his love endures forever” (**verse 5**, NIV). Just as God has made us, because of His unconditional love, He has “mercied” us. You will not find the word *mercied* in a dictionary. It is a word the lesson writer's grandmother used to indicate that “God has supplied unmerited favor.” There are no prerequisites or conditions to God's goodness and love. Even in our sin, God loved us and committed Christ to pardon our sins (see John 3:16). God cannot stop loving us. His love continues, unbroken, from eternity to eternity. While humanity has routinely proven to be faithless toward God, His faithfulness to His people has spanned through all generations (**verse 5**). God's people are recipients of a wide range of spiritual blessings like grace and mercy, and material blessings like “cattle upon a thousand hills” (Psalm 50:10) and “silver” and “gold” (Haggai 2:8).

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Mercy is compassion toward those whom you have the power to harm or right to punish. Since you have so freely received God's mercy, how can you share that mercy with others?

A CLOSING THOUGHT

Personal praise will strengthen our corporate praise. Personal praise must be built on the foundation of a personal relationship with God. Testimonies and witnessing can be greatly hindered when there is a lack of biblical understanding and no meaningful experience with God. Start there and grow.

YOUR LIFE

Take a personal assessment of your life and your relationship with God. Are you ever shy about worshipping God? Begin with worshipping God privately; the practice will spill over into your public worship.

YOUR WORLD!

Create an opportunity to share the message of Jesus with someone you know. Tell the person of the Lord's goodness and what He has done for you.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help us to strengthen our personal relationship with You. Thank You for filling our lives with Your love, goodness, and mercy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CONCLUSION

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

While reading the Background Scripture, consider this thought: "How do you respond when life hits you with a 'ball of confusion'?"

HOME DAILY READINGS

PRAISE GOD FOR JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

(October 4-10, 2021)

MONDAY, October 4: "Where Is Justice?" (Ecclesiastes 3:16-22)

TUESDAY, October 5: "A Prayer for Justice" (Psalm 7:8-17)

WEDNESDAY, October 6: "Let Justice Roll Down" (Amos 5:21-25)

THURSDAY, October 7: "God's Servant Proclaims Justice" (Matthew 12:14-21)

FRIDAY, October 8: "God Has Executed Judgment" (Psalm 9:13-20)

SATURDAY, October 9: "Jesus Pronounces Release and Recovery" (Luke 4:14-21)

SUNDAY, October 10: "God Judges with Righteousness" (Psalm 9:1-12)