

Psalms 100

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 100 - and as we make our way to the 100th Psalm...

...I should take a moment to point out that this Psalm is the eighth of eight consecutive Psalms...

...which have been called by some - the theocratic Psalms - and by others - the Enthronement Psalms.

The reason why is because - this series of songs focus our attention on the theocratic rule of our infinite King - Who sits enthroned over His creation.

And while the 100th Psalm is another anonymous Psalm that fails to identify it's author...

...the lyrical content of this Psalm shares many similar statements with the 95th Psalm - which was written by King David.

And so - it's possible that this Psalm was also written by the sweet psalmist of Israel.

Well - regardless of who wrote this Psalm - what we can say for certain is that...

...this is the only Psalm that is identified as A Psalm of Thanksgiving.

It's there in the superscription section - where we learn that this song is A Psalm of Thanksgiving.

And just to be clear - that word - Thanksgiving - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which in this context - helps us to see that this is a song of adoration.

We should also notice that the Psalmist was calling the people of every nation to proclaim the praises of the Lord.

And as we consider the content of this short and sweet song - - it seems to me that...

...this psalm is pointing to the Millennial reign of Christ Jesus...

...when the nations of the Earth will gather together to sing the Praises of our Savior...

...there at the gates of the New Jerusalem.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 100th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 100:1 A Psalm of Thanksgiving.
Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!

Now - it might interest you to know that - the Hebrew word which was rendered - Thanksgiving...

...was not only used in reference to a song of adoration - but it was also used in reference to a choir of worshippers...

...who gather together in order to offer a sacrifice of praise.

I like the way that King David called for the congregational choir of Israel - to present this sacrifice of praise.

It was back in the 95th psalm - beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

Psa 95:1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
Psa 95:2 Let us come before His presence with
thanksgiving;

Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Here in this Psalm - we find King David encouraging the congregation of Israel...

...to gather together - so that they could present the Lord with this sacrifice of praise.

You might not know this - but - when we gather together as a corporate choir - in order to sing songs of praise to the Lord...

...we're actually offering unto the Lord a sacrifice of praise.

I like the way that Paul put it - in Hebrews chapter 13 - it's verse 15 where he declared...

Heb 13:15 ...let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Christian - listen - when we gather together - and sing the praises of our Savior...

...we're presenting the Lord with a sacrifice of praise...

...as we express our gratitude - for the great things that our God has done.

We should also notice that the Psalmist was encouraging the people from every land - to offer this sacrifice of praise.

Look with me again - there at verse 1 - where the psalmist declared...

Psa 100:1 Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!

Now - when the Psalmist encouraged the people of every land to make a joyful shout to the LORD...

...he was actually instructing every person on the planet - to joyfully shout the praises of Yahweh.

And just to be clear - that word - shout - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which - in this context - was used of the joyful noise that is heard...

...whenever a triumphant king returns - victorious in battle.

I like the way that Spurgeon described the meaning of this word - here's how he put it...

The original word signifies a glad shout, such as loyal subjects give when their king appears among them. Our happy God should be worshipped by a happy people; a cheerful spirit is in keeping with his nature, his acts, and the gratitude which we should cherish for his mercies. In every land Jehovah's goodness is seen, therefore in every land should be be praised.

He's exactly right - - every person should proclaim the praises of the Lord - no matter the tribe - tongue or nation.

And in every land - this sacrifice of praise should be presented unto the Lord - by every person.

Sadly - this Psalm won't be fulfilled - until after the battle of Armageddon...

...when the King of kings will finally establish His theocratic reign over the Earth.

Let's consider how the prophet Zechariah described this period of time - it's in Zechariah 14 - beginning at verse 7 - where we learn that...

Zec 14:7 It shall be one day
Which is known to the LORD—
Neither day nor night.

But at evening time it shall happen

That it will be light.

Zec 14:8 And in that day it shall be

That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem,

Half of them toward the eastern sea

And half of them toward the western sea;

In both summer and winter it shall occur.

Zec 14:9 And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.

In that day it shall be—

“The LORD is one,” And His name one.

Zec 14:10 All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin’s Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s winepresses.

Zec 14:11 The people shall dwell in it;

And no longer shall there be utter destruction,

But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

Zec 14:12 And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem:

Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet,

Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets,

And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

Zec 14:13 It shall come to pass in that day

That a great panic from the LORD will be among them.

Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor,

And raise his hand against his neighbor’s hand;

Zec 14:14 Judah also will fight at Jerusalem.

And the wealth of all the surrounding nations

Shall be gathered together:

Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.

Zec 14:15 Such also shall be the plague

On the horse and the mule,

On the camel and the donkey,

And on all the cattle that will be in those camps.

So shall this plague be.

Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

After the battle of Armageddon - - and after the sheep and goat judgment...

...the sheep will enter into the Millennial kingdom of Christ Jesus.

And it's during the days of His reign - when all the people of the Earth will travel to the New Jerusalem...

...in order to present the King of kings - with a sacrifice of praise.

And it's at that point in time - when the 100th Psalm will finally be fulfilled.

As we look forward to that day - I encourage every believer to make a joyful shout to the LORD...

...as we gather together here in our Christian congregation - in order to present the Lord with a sacrifice of praise.

And listen - we should not only give thanks to His name - by singing songs of praise...

...but - we should also serve the Lord with gladness.

Let's consider how the Psalmist put it - here in the 100th Psalm.

Look with me - there at verse 2 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.

Now - that word - serve - was translated from a Hebrew word - which was used of the subjects - Who serve their King.

The same word was also used of the bondservants - who are called to serve their master.

And while I realize that the American dream is based on the pursuit of personal autonomy...

...the born-again believer is called to become a bondservant of our Master - Jesus.

You might not know this - but - Paul often referred to himself as a bondservant of Jesus.

For example - it's in Romans chapter 1 - verse 1 - where Paul referred to himself as a bondservant of Jesus Christ.

And again - in Galatians chapter 1 - verse 10 - he reminded his readers that he is a bondservant of Christ.

In Titus chapter 1 - vs 1 - he called himself a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ...

...and in Philippians 1 vs 1 - Paul referred to himself - and Timothy as bondservants of Jesus Christ.

We also find James referring to himself as a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ - in the first chapter of his epistle.

In 2 Peter 1 - verse 1 - Peter introduced himself as a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ.

And in Jude 1 verse 1 - - Jude also referred to himself as a bondservant of Jesus Christ.

And in light of these examples - there should be no doubt that...

...every born again believer has been called to become a bondservant of Jesus Christ...

...according to the example of our Master - and Messiah.

Let's consider how Paul put it - in Philippians chapter 2 - it's beginning at verse 5 - where he declared...

Phl 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
Phl 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery
to be equal with God,
Phl 2:7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a
bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.
Phl 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled
Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of
the cross.
Phl 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him
the name which is above every name,
Phl 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those
in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
Phl 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is
Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Lord Jesus set aside His glory - as He clothed himself with the frailty of humanity.

In this way - He took on the form of a bondservant - as He came in the likeness of men.

And listen - this is the mindset that Paul encouraged every Christian to maintain - when he declared...

“...Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...”

We have been called to become bondservants - who are actively serving our Savior.

In order to prove my point - let's consider the way that the Lord Jesus explained it to His disciples.

And so - hold your place here in the book of Psalms - and let's turn in our Bibles - to John chapter 13.

It's here in the 13th chapter of John's gospel account - where we find the Lord Jesus - washing the feet of His followers.

And while it's true that this was a task - for the lowest servant in the house...

...the Lord Jesus used this as a teaching opportunity so that we might understand our calling in Christ.

Let's consider John's account - found here in John chapter 13 - look with me beginning there at verse 12 - where we read...

Jhn 13:12 ...when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?

Jhn 13:13 "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.

Jhn 13:14 "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

Jhn 13:15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

Jhn 13:16 "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

Jhn 13:17 "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Christian - listen - the Lord Jesus washed the feet of His disciples - so that we might understand that...

...every believer has been called to become the bondservants of our Messiah - because He is our Master.

And as we step up and serve the LORD with gladness...

...the bondservants of the Lord will be blessed through the obedience of faith.

And listen - many of these blessings will be received in the Millennial kingdom of Christ.

In order to prove my point - let's consider one of the kingdom parable that Jesus presented to His disciples.

Continue holding your place - there in the book of Psalms - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Luke chapter 19.

You see - it's here in the 19th chapter of Luke's gospel account...

...where we find the Lord Jesus - presenting the parable of the Minas - or - talents...

...in order to help His disciples to grasp the value of being faithful servants.

With this as our focus - let's consider this Kingdom Parable - found here in Luke chapter 19.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 12 - where Christ Jesus declared...

Luk 19:12 "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.

Luk 19:13 "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'

Luk 19:14 "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'

Luk 19:15 "And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

Luk 19:16 "Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'

Luk 19:17 "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

Luk 19:18 "And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'

Luk 19:19 "Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

Luk 19:20 "Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief.

Luk 19:21 'For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'
Luk 19:22 "And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow.'
Luk 19:23 'Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'
Luk 19:24 "And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.'
Luk 19:25 ("But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.')

Luk 19:26 'For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

Here in this Kingdom parable - we find the Lord Jesus - helping His audience to understand that...

...our Earthly investments will have a direct affect on our Heavenly rewards.

And as we consider the point that the Lord Jesus was making here in this parable...

...we must not fail to see the connection - between our faithfulness here in this world...

...and the role that we will receive in Christ's Millennial kingdom.

The servant who faithfully serves our Master while we're here in this world...

...will be given greater responsibilities - as we rule and reign with the King of kings.

And those who are less than faithful - will end up missing out on the rewards...

...that the Lord will distribute during the Millennial kingdom of Christ.

With all of this being the case - I encourage every Christian to serve the LORD with gladness...

...as we look forward to the day when we will receive the blessings that the Lord will bestow...

...upon those invested their lives into the Kingdom of Christ.

And while it's true that the Lord Jesus is our Master - and we are the servants of our Savior...

...it's also true that the Lord Jesus is the good Shepherd - and those who trust in Him - are the sheep of His pasture.

With this as our focus - let's make our way back to Psalm 100 - where we find the Psalmist - presenting this point.

Let's consider how the psalmist put it - here in our text tonight - look with me there at verse 3 - where he declared...

Psa 100:3 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.

Here in this verse - we find the Psalmist - singing the praises of our Creator - - and our Shepherd.

God is the Infinite Creator - Who made the Universe - and everything in it.

And seeing how the entire creation was designed to declare the glory of God...

...how much more should those who are His image bearers...

...proclaim the praises of the One Who created us for this very reason.

And while it's true that our God is the infinite Creator - Who exists beyond the Universe He created...

...it's also true that the Lord is our good Shepherd - - Who is mindful of His sheep.

That's right - - the all-powerful God Who created everything out of nothing...

...is the all-loving God - Who leads His people - like a good shepherd leads his sheep.

With this in mind - let's consider how the good Shepherd will lead Israel - during the Millennial Kingdom of Christ.

It's in Jeremiah chapter 31 - beginning at verse 10 - where the prophet Jeremiah declared...

Jer 31:10 "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
And declare it in the isles afar off, and say,
'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
And keep him as a shepherd does his flock.'

Jer 31:11 For the LORD has redeemed Jacob,
And ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he.

Jer 31:12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion,
Streaming to the goodness of the LORD—

For wheat and new wine and oil,
For the young of the flock and the herd;
Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden,
And they shall sorrow no more at all.

Jer 31:13 "Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance,
And the young men and the old, together;
For I will turn their mourning to joy,
Will comfort them,

And make them rejoice rather than sorrow.

Jer 31:14 I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance,
And My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the LORD."

Christian - listen - there's coming a day - when the Lord will restore Israel...

...so that they might sing the praises of our Savior - from the height of Zion.

And it's during the Millennial Kingdom of Christ - when the good shepherd will take care of His sheep...

...and He satisfies them with His gracious goodness.

At the same time - He will also care for the sheep that have been redeemed from another fold.

Let's consider how Christ Jesus explained it - in John chapter 10 - it's beginning at verse 11 - where He declared...

Jhn 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Jhn 10:12 "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.

Jhn 10:13 "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

Jhn 10:14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

Jhn 10:15 "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

Jhn 10:16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Jesus is not only the good shepherd of Israel - - but - He is also the good shepherd of the sheep from another fold.

This is a reference to all of the gentiles - who hear the voice of the Lord.

What this means is that - those who trust in Jesus - are the people of His pasture...

...no matter the tribe - the tongue - or the nationality.

If you've placed your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ...

...then I encourage you realize that - we are the sheep of His pasture.

And as His sheep - we will do well to learn how to listen to His voice...

...so that we can follow the good shepherd - wherever He leads.

Christian - listen - the sheep that fails to follow their shepherd - will soon find themselves facing unnecessarily difficulties.

Case in point - there was a sheep that was lost for 5 years in the Australian wilderness.

And seeing how sheep receive an annual shearing - - the lost sheep was covered in 80 pounds of matted wool...

...when it was finally rescued from it's wandering ways.

Sadly - the animals vision was severely impaired because wool had grown over his eyes.

...resulting in trapped debris that caused a corneal ulcer.

Please trust me when I tell you that - it's better for the believer to remember that...

...Jesus is our good shepherd - - and we are the sheep of His pasture.

With that being the case - we'll do well to remember that - those who wander away from the Lord...

...will suffer many unnecessary difficulties - that are brought on by our bad decisions.

It's for this reason that I encourage every Christian to understand the reason for why the Lord has called some men - to serve as pastors.

I like the way that the apostle Peter put it - in 1st Peter chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

1Pe 5:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

1Pe 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

1Pe 5:3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

1Pe 5:4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

1Pe 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

1Pe 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

From this - we can see that the Chief Shepherd has called - and equipped sub-shepherds - to serve as overseers of every flock.

And knowing how easy it is for sheep to wander from the straight and narrow path...

...the apostle Peter encouraged every Christian to realize that...

...the good Shepherd has created this hierarchy - for the benefit of every believer.

With that being the case - every believer will do well to Submit to the good Shepherd - as we learn how to humbly to submit to one another.

With this as our goal - let's consider the way that the psalmist concluded this psalm - - look with me beginning there at verse 4 - where he declared...

Psa 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
Psa 100:5 For the LORD is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.

Here in the final verses of this Psalm - we find the Psalmist - encouraging his audience...

...to enter into the gates of the temple - with thanksgiving in our hearts.

Remember - this is a Psalm of thanksgiving - which should be sung with a heart that is filled with gratitude.

The Psalmist also encouraged his audience to enter the courts of the temple with praise.

And the best way to do this - is found there at the end of verse 4 - where the psalmist declared...

“...Be thankful to Him, and bless His name...”

Now - it's possible that you're struggling to be thankful - - because - you've been praying for something that the Lord hasn't provided.

And so - rather than being thankful for all of the ways that the Lord has already blessed you....

...all you can see is the one thing that He hasn't provided.

If this sounds like your struggle - then I encourage you to remember the everlasting blessing of salvation.

As sinners - what we deserve is everlasting condemnation.

And yet - while we were still sinners - Christ died for us - so that we might be saved - by faith in His substitutionary sacrifice.

And as we enter into the doors of our church - we should enter with a thankful heart that is filled with gratitude.

We should enter the throne room of grace with praise...

...as we bless the name of the One - Who has provided us with free gift of grace...

...by which we are saved.

With this as our focus - it's important for us to remember what the psalmist said — there in verse 5 - where He declared...

Psa 100:5 For the LORD is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.

The Lord is good - - and listen - the Lord is always good.

And yes - this is true - even when He withholds from us the things that we really want.

The Lord is good - and He has a good plan for those who trust in Him.

And in this - we can be thankful

We can also rejoice in knowing that the Lord's mercy is everlasting.

And what this means is that - those who receive the mercy of our Messiah...

...can rest in knowing that - we will never wear out our welcome...

...in the heavenly home that He is preparing for us.

I'm sure that we've all had a guest - who wore out their welcome.

And every day they remain in our house - is a day that further strains the relationship.

Christian - listen - we will never wear out our welcome in the presence of the Lord...

...and the reason why is because - His mercy is everlasting...

...and His truth endures to all generations.

For all of these reasons - we should Enter into His gates with thanksgiving in our hearts - as we enter His courts with praise.

Let's become those believers who bless the name of the Lord - as we proclaim His praises forevermore.

And as we Serve our Savior with gladness - He will bless us with everlasting blessings...

...according to the riches of His everlasting mercy and grace.