

091418

- I. My Notes... WWC message 091618
- II. Series: A Summer of Psalms
  - a. Title:
  - b. Text: Psalm 100
  - c. Quote: "What I see in the Bible, especially in the book of Psalms, which is a book of gratitude for the created world, is a recognition that all good things on Earth are God's, every good gift is from above. They are good if we recognize where they came from and if we treat them the way the Designer intended them to be treated." Philip Yancey (Author)
- III. Introduction
  - a. Shout to the Lord – (Darlene Zchech, 1993) was sung throughout the 1990's and early 2000's frequently. For me it is a song that touches the heart of worship deeply. As we have been going thru the Psalms, we have talked about expressing gratitude, finding reasons to worship (praise, adore, respect) the Lord God. This is same idea the lyrics of the song express... "My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord there is none like You... All of my days, I want to praise, The wonders of Your mighty love" ... I have encouraged us to begin to see the reasons for worship and praise in the present moments, no matter what the situation or circumstance. This is a learned behavior because, truth be told, we tend to look at the negative – to dwell on what is wrong instead of what is right. It's part of the human condition.
  - b. Here's the thing, what holds our attention often determines the attitude we carry and display. Do you have a reason to praise the Lord God? There are times it takes a paradigm shift. (this is definitely a timing thing...). There was an email that went around some time ago causing those who read it to reflect on 9/11. I bring this up because it came to mind this past Tuesday as I was

doing my apheresis donation (it's something I do fairly regularly). I noted to the tech how busy the donation center was... she told me it is always busy on 9/11. Anyway, back to the email... it was titled, "What a Difference a Day Makes." It is particularly appropriate during our national holiday of Thanksgiving: On Monday, we e-mailed jokes. On Tuesday, we did not. On Monday, we were fussing about praying in school. On Tuesday, we would have been hard pressed to find a school where someone was not praying. On Monday, our heroes were athletes. On Tuesday, we relearned who heroes are. On Monday, there were people trying to separate us by race, sex, color, and creed. On Tuesday, we were all holding hands. On Monday, we were irritated that our rebate checks had not arrived. On Tuesday, we gave money away gladly to people we had never met. On Monday, we were upset that we had to wait 5 minutes in a fast food line. On Tuesday, we stood in line for 3 to 5 hours to give blood for the dying. On Monday, we argued with our kids to clean up their rooms. On Tuesday, we couldn't get home fast enough to hug our kids. On Monday, we went to work as usual. On Tuesday, we went to work, but some of us didn't come home. On Monday, we had families. On Tuesday, we had orphans. On Monday, September 10th, life felt routine. On Tuesday, September 11th, it did not. What a difference a day makes.

- c. We get caught up in life and sometimes think this is as bad as it gets. Perhaps. Then there is a twist or another issue that arises and it causes one to wonder, "really Lord?". Could there be anything else. Perhaps. Again, it depends on where one's focus lies. Let me share some perspective (on a humorous note) ... The day before Thanksgiving an elderly man in Albuquerque called his son in New York and said to him, "I hate to ruin your holiday, but I have to tell you something... Your mother and I are getting a divorce; 45 years of misery is enough. We're sick of each other, and so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her." Upset and frenzied, the son called his sister, who blew up. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouted, "I'll take care of this." She called her parents home in Albuquerque immediately, and said to her Dad - "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my

brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" The man hung up his phone and turned to his wife. "Okay, honey. The kids are coming for Thanksgiving and paying for their flights."

- d. Perspective. It is important to see that there may be more happening than what we first see. And we need to develop the mindset to step back and thank the Lord – whether it is the best of times or the worst of times.

#### IV. Text

- a. Psalm 100:1-5 (ESV)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

- b. We need to get excited about worshiping the Lord God
- c. Worship, celebrating God's goodness and grace, brings our intimacy with Him to a deeper level. Through gratitude the experience of our relationship becomes more complete and satisfying.
- d. "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." (John Piper, *Desiring God*, 1986)
- e. This Psalm is incredibly popular, and it may be the only Psalm (of the 150) completely devoted to worship

#### V. Celebrate, Make a JOYFUL noise, Shout

- a. Have you had a fresh start?
- b. Isaiah 43:19 (CSB)

Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

- c. Developing a relationship with the Lord brings us to a fresh place
- d. It gives us a reason to sing
- e. We need to become like the blind man that Jesus healed
  - i. John 9:24-25 (BBE)

So they sent a second time for the man who had been blind and they said to him, Give glory to God: it is clear to us that this man is a sinner. He said in answer, I have no knowledge if he is a sinner or not, but one thing I am certain about; I was blind, and now I see.

- f. There are things the Lord has done and He is doing
- g. We must be willing to sing about His goodness and mercy

## VI. Obedience = Gladness

- a. Worship leads to service. The more we come to know the Lord and experience His blessings – His love, the more we find ways to demonstrate our love for Him
- b. The story of Abraham and Isaac is a profound one of faith, obedience, and ultimate worship. Abraham longed for a son and Isaac was the fulfillment of God's promise. Abraham took Isaac to be sacrificed at the Lord's command. It was a question of faith and obedience. It turned into a time of honoring the Lord
- c. We are challenged to "walk worthy" of our calling (cf. Eph. 4). And part of that walk is the fact that we seek to honor and glorify the Lord
- d. Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- e. This is a great life lesson on how we should act.
- f. Our happiness, our joy, comes from a understanding who we are in Christ and the things the Lord has blessed us with

VII. Come into His Presence

a. John 4:23-24 (CSB)

"But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth."

b.

VIII. Know Him

IX. The Lord is Good, Loving, and Faithful... Forever