

A Joyful noise

Psalm 100

John Wesley and the Porter

- 21 years old - went to Oxford University
- Gifted w keen mind and good looks
- Snobbish and Sarcastic
- One night with a Porter changed his life -

- "While speaking with a porter, he discovered that the poor fellow had only one coat and lived in such impoverished conditions that he didn't even have a bed. Yet he was an unusually happy person, filled with gratitude to God. Wesley, being immature, thoughtlessly joked about the man's misfortunes. "And what else do you thank God for?" he said sarcastically. The porter smiled, and in the spirit of meekness replied with joy, "I thank Him that He has given me my life and being, a heart to love Him, and above all a constant desire to serve Him!"

- Wesley was deeply moved and recognized that this man knew the meaning of true thankfulness and praise.
- Wesley lived the remainder of his life (he died at age 88) having learned the lesson from the porter of praising God in every circumstance.

The Principle of Praise - A Command

- "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands" (Psalm 100:1 - KJV).
- Note that it is a command and the psalmist did not say to sing beautifully, but rather to make a joyful noise.

My Granny illustration

- All the years that I knew my grandmother on my Dad's side, she seldom sang in worship services.
- She explained that years before, after a worship service, someone came to her and told her to shut up since she couldn't sing -- so she did.
- But whenever the hymn "I'll Fly Away" was sung, she just couldn't help herself and she would sing that song. I can still hear her singing that song.
- It would probably not be beautiful to you, but it was to me and probably to The Father in Heaven as well.

Psalm 100:2

- "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing."
- Sing praises to Him with a smile on your face..

Psalm 100:4

- "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."
- Here again, note that those are commands.
- Can you imagine walking through the gates of Heaven without praising God or without being thankful?

The Principle of Praise - A Conscious Decision

- Of the 150 Psalms, David wrote 77
- Majority of these psalms, David was not in a good situation
- Either he was being pursued by King Saul to kill him or by his son Absalom to kill him

Psalm 9:1-2

- I WILL praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I WILL shew forth all thy marvellous works.
- I WILL be glad and rejoice in Thee: I WILL sing praise to Thy name, O Thou Most High.
- Note the "I WILLs" - David is deciding to do this even if he does not feel like it.
- "shew forth" - "Count Your Many Blessings"

Paul and Silas - Acts 16

- Acts 16:22-25
- Paul and Silas are in Philippi and happen to drive out a demon of fortune telling out of a girl
- They get thrown into prison after being beaten with rods.
- Around midnight, they begin singing hymns to God. Here again, a conscious decision to praise God, even when they didn't feel like it.

The Purpose of Praise

- God does not need us to praise Him in order to boost His self esteem.
- Ps 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."
- It is reason enough to praise Him because He is God.

Psalm 139:14

- "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; . . .
"

Psalm 100:5

- "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations."

God is Good

- Psalm 103:1-5a - Bless the Lord, my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, and never forget any of His benefits: He continues to forgive all your sins, He continues to heal all your diseases, He continues to redeem your life from the Pit, and He continually surrounds you with gracious love and compassion. He keeps satisfying you with good things, International Standard Version

Magnifying Glass Illus.

- Dwayne Vanderklok is quoted as saying the following concerning magnifying God:
- "When you use a magnifying glass, it doesn't change the size of what you look at. It changes your perception."

The Power of Praise

- Blesses you in at least two ways:
- Emotionally
- Spiritually

James 5:13

- "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise" (English Standard Version).
- I would say apply both to both conditions, whether suffering or cheerful.

- Leela Heidler just left us to go Home - Gary, her son would tell me of her having him sing hymns to her when he would visit and she would try to sing with him. During her active life she would love singing praises to the Lord.
- My grandmother Collins, before she went Home, was known for singing hymns of praise to God constantly.
- There is a comfort that comes from praising God.

Praising God - Early Church

- Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:46-47
- Healed Paralytic - Acts 3:1-8
- Paul and Silas in Philippian jail - Acts 16:22-
- Philippian Jailer - "What must I do to be saved?"
In other words - "I need what they got"

- Psalm 40:1-3 - "I waited patiently for the Lord, and He turned to me and heard my cry for help. He brought me up from a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay, and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord." - Holman Standard

- With a heavy schedule of appointments President Abraham Lincoln had an elderly woman with no official business in mind ask to see him, and he graciously consented. As she entered Lincoln's office, he rose to greet her and asked how he might be of service. She replied that she had not come to ask a favor. She had heard that the President liked a certain kind of cookie, so she had baked some for him and brought them to his office. With tears in his eyes, Lincoln responded, "You are the very first person who has ever come into my office asking not, expecting not, but rather bringing me a gift. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Closing

- When was the last time that you went into the throne room of prayer with no requests, just a gift of praise?
- Is there anything on your heart this morning that is getting in the way of your praising God - perhaps a burden that we can pray for? If so, let us know of it by coming forward while we stand and sing.