

**The Journey [Psalm 100]**  
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## INTRODUCTION

1. Let me start with a University of Chicago Business School study
  - a. Participants could work 6 minutes for gallon of vanilla ice cream or 7 minutes for pistachio.
    - 1) Less than 30% chose the 7-minute task—it seems fewer people liked pistachios.
  - b. For the second group, vanilla cost 50 points and pistachio cost 100 points
    - 1) Even though the same time parameters remained (6 and 7 minutes).
    - 2) The majority went for the longer task, even though they preferred vanilla.
  - c. Participants were more excited about that 100 than the actual reward.
    - 1) It was the lure of 100 that pushed them to pistachio.
2. The number “100” still bears incredible significance to us.
  - a. 100 years comprises a century
  - b. It's the boiling point of the Celsius scale
  - c. A one hundred loss season in baseball is horrible.
  - d. The first one hundred days of a President's term is always judged (because of FDR)
3. **This week we conclude what has been an incredibly challenging year.**
  - a. To provide accomplishment, we'll conclude our year in Psalms with a round number.
  - b. Tonight we're going to examine the 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm which is short but succinct.
  - c. It was a psalm of worship written for the worshippers in Jerusalem.

## Verses 1,2

*1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

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

1. There is a biblical command for you and I to shout
  - \*There is, however, no guidance to change volume either a little bit louder/softer
  - a. Think about when you shout. Why do you do it? When have you done it lately
    - 1) I shouted positively at a soccer players making big plays this week.
    - 2) I shouted negatively at the poor officiating in this weekends football game.
    - 3) I shouted angrily at the guy assaulting his girlfriend in front of my house.
  - b. Shouting is one of the ultimate reflections of our passion
  - c. The question: when is the last time you truly shouted for joy at what God has done?
    - 1) I tried this last Easter and ended up scaring a little baby in the audience.
2. We're also told to worship with gladness
  - a. There's a link between worshipping with gladness and singing
    - 1) A major part of our worship gatherings are songs.
    - 2) It's the intersection of lyrics and melody and participation.
    - 3) Be careful that you don't worship the worship music. Keep it in the right place.
3. Who should do all this? All the earth.
  - a. We're reminded that, at this writing, the Psalms were written to the Israelites.
    - 1) But the psalm would soon spread throughout the land of Israel
    - 2) And in the years to come, the Jewish people were scattered over the world.
  - b. *Here is a map of what is known as the Diaspora. They were all over the Med.*
    - 1) Similarly, the spread of Christianity has moved throughout the world
    - 2) All the world has the opportunity to shout for joy to the Lord.

## Verse 3

*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.*

1. "Acknowledge" is a better understanding than "know." What should we acknowledge?
  - a. That the Lord is God.
    - 1) This is a specific acknowledgment. It's not just about knowing "a higher power"
    - 2) The Bible tells a specific tale, and offers a specific path towards eternity.
  - b. That we are his and his people
    - 1) This transcends just admitting his existence. It means aligning yourself to him.
    - 2) I meet many an individual inquisitive when I tell them I'm a minister.
    - 3) But people on the edge want to claim aspects of faith without true alliance
    - 4) It's really not a personal relationship. It's communal in nature. UNDERSTAND . . .
2. That we are his sheep. This is a pastoral relationship.
  - a. In the ancient world, this was seen in the returning to Jerusalem for festivals.
    - 1) After the Babylonian exile, a system of synagogues were developed.
    - 2) *Here is a picture* of what the synagogue looked like.
  - b. One of the keys to the pastoral relationship was returning to Jerusalem for festivals
    - 1) This was key to understanding their place within the scope of the broader faith
  - c. It's important to acknowledge not only God, but our place in the kingdom.

#### **Verse 4**

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

1. One of the benefits of technology, we have renditions of how this would look.
  - a. During festival season, the population of Jerusalem would swell
    - 1) Where normally it was 10-20,000, it could swell as high as high as 1 million people.
  - b. There were multiple "gates" by which people would enter.
  - c. The plateau were the "courts" which facilitated the worshippers.
2. The most prominent place of entry were the gates to the south.
  - a. In heading to worship, you would ascend to the hill
  - b. As you entered the temple complex, you would see the grandeur of the edifices.
  - c. Religious edifices are normally designed in grandeur
3. Juxtapose the experience: synagogue to temple.
  - a. When you entered the gate, the ultimate experience would bring about Thanksgiving
  - b. The GATES were a gateway for greater worship
4. Can you do the same in your worship experience?
  - a. Our emphasis on creativity is intended to be a GATE towards courts of praise.

#### **Verse 5**

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

1. For how long does his love endure? Forever.
  - a. Ultimately, the culmination of our worship is eternity
  - b. The temple was viewed by Jews as a means for accessing the eternal.
  - c. Rabbi Yaakov Sinclair writes, "*When God created the universe, He didn't create it as an expanse, as a myriad of stars spread out on an almost infinite blackness. Rather, He first created a single point, and from there all space and time unfolded.*"
2. As I draw closer to him, I move towards an eternal mindset
3. That's the movement of Psalm 100: going from where I am now to eternity.
  - a. It's a journey from the outskirts of the earth to the temple mount to celebrate the Lord.

## CONCLUSION

1. So let's reflect on our past year. How has that worked out for you?
  - a. Have you felt like you're continuing on a godly trajectory, or are you stalled?
  - b. As a church, it's been a year of creativity, worship, and generosity.
  - c. How has it worked for you?
2. Here's the beauty: there is always an opportunity to recalibrate.
  - a. **January 1, 2021. What will you do with the new year before you?**