

Psalm 100
Thanksgiving Part 1

So, what is thanksgiving? It is the expression of gratitude to God, to Jesus in song. Song appropriate to the worship of God, the worship of Jesus the Christ. When I say appropriate to the worship of God, I am not speaking of genre but focus. To give thanksgiving to God is to sing to God about God, not us. Considering that the context and place of this Psalm is Temple worship then thanksgiving is the tenor of all worship. That is, it is the mood, the temperament, the tone of worship. So, it makes sense that disciples when assembling for worship do so with a song in our hearts and praises on our lips, in thanksgiving to God. With this established, I see three ways in the text that thanksgiving informs or should inform our worship of God, of Jesus the Christ.

First, thanksgiving dictates that worship will be noisy and energetic (at some point). **V1-2** “Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! ²Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.” We are literally called to shout with joy, to be eager in our worship and to sing to the Lord. Simply stated, to make a big noise unto God. When the people of God, disciples of Jesus the Christ assemble for worship there should be expectation in the air. Why? Because God is here. Because God is God. We give thanksgiving to God, to Jesus for not what He has done but simply for who He is. God!

What true fan does not at some point shout in joy and in disappointment about his/her favorite team? If we never get excited about God, about Jesus Christ in a way that's not only evident to us but to others something is amiss in our relationship with God/Christ. If we enter worship not expecting God/Jesus/Holy Spirit to be there

then what's the point? Temple worship was loud and messy. There were people everywhere, praying, singing, being taught and animals being slaughtered. Giving God thanksgiving as one entered His courts and His presence was anything but sterile, controlled, or quiet.

Psalm 150:1-6 “¹⁻⁶ Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy house of worship, praise him under the open skies; Praise him for his acts of power, praise him for his magnificent greatness; Praise with a blast on the trumpet, praise by strumming soft strings; Praise him with castanets and dance, praise him with banjo and flute; Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum, praise him with fiddles and mandolin. Let every living, breathing creature praise God! Hallelujah!” **MSG**

Matt 18:20 “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Col 3:16 “¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

ESV

Second, thanksgiving demands that every professing believer participates. **V1-3** “Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! ² Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 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.” Worship is to be done in community with other believers. This is the primary context of worship in scripture. The Psalmist writes in the plural. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. We. And every text I have come across on this matter of thanksgiving is in the plural and everyone is called upon to participate. **Listen, we are the**

church and no one individual constitutes the church of Jesus the Christ. Thanksgiving is a community affair, and everyone has a part to play. If the world will not praise God, and it should, we certainly will.

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7 “¹Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. ²Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song... Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; ⁷for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.” **NIV**

Eph 5:18b-20 “Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” **NIV**

Final thing, thanksgiving requires we be prepared to give. V4 “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.” When we gather as God’s people we gather in a giving posture. We are not overly concerned about what we may receive but rather our focus is on what we must give. I have heard persons on a number of occasions make statements like, “I didn’t get anything out of worship”. That’s okay because we are not the object of worship. Thanksgiving has as its object the worship and praise of God/Jesus. Not us. The only somebody we should be concerned about receiving something when we assemble as God’s people, disciples of Jesus the Christ, is God, is Christ. Every Sunday will not suite your tastes but every Sunday you can come ready to give God, to give Christ what’s due His name. Thanksgiving and praise.

Psalm 34:1-3 “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise *shall* continually be in my mouth. ²My soul shall make its boast

in the Lord; The humble shall hear of *it* and be glad. ³Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.” **NKJV**

Hebrews 13:15 “¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.”

Let us always be prepared to do this. To give this! So, that if we ever feel we didn’t get anything from worship at least we will be able to say, “I didn’t get anything but I certainly gave God/Jesus all the thanksgiving and praise I had”. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**