

Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions

Usher Day - Psalm 100

Sermon Title: Joy at the Gate

Sunday, November 18, 2018

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A person living a lifestyle of worship will sense a call to corporate worship. There are those who will say they can worship where they are. That is true. God never intended for our worship to be private only. He intended for his people to come together and make a joyful noise. In the passage today, God says, "Make a shout." The passage reads: "Shout and make a joyful noise to the Lord."

Worshipping together was not an issue in the first century church. Just because we have technology, it does not mean we are to neglect corporate worship. God is calling us to have "Joy at the Gate."

How do you have joy at the gate? Enjoy the joy of the Lord. Private and public worship are to be complementary. If you worship privately, there should be no problem worshipping publicly. If you have not sung a song to the Lord or prayed before you got to church, someone has to push and prime you to worship.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Joy at the gate is the outcome of true worshippers entering the Lord's house with thanksgiving and praise.

- The Ushers' ministry meets us at the gate.
- Make a choice to come into the gates to worship. The Ushers are receiving everything we bring to the gate—our moods, our personalities.
- Joy: There must be an excitement once we get here.
- In God's presence, things change.
- We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is in us, we transform the physical place to a place for His presence. It is the spirit within the people that brings the joy to worship.

Key Points:

1. **Joy is found when Christian worship is known for its authenticity. (v. 1-2)**
 - a. You don't have to fake anything. You don't come to church to fake anything. Even if you are struggling with something, you keep your focus on the Lord.
 - b. Come in and know that your joy is not based on your circumstances. Focus on who God is—the one who can handle your situation.
 - c. You can be transparent in your worship. Allow for worshippers to "have their moment" with God.

2. **Joy is present when Christian worship is anchored in accuracy. (v.3).**
 - a. Know that the Lord IS God. It is HE who has made us and not we ourselves. The Israelites were prone to worship idols.
 - b. God is looking for worshippers who will worship in spirit and in truth. The truth is there is no other God beside Him. God says, "I am not going to share you with anybody or anything." Not just knowledge about God, but knowledge of God.

- c. God is sovereign. Idolatry and pride keep us from having joy in worship. When we worship ourselves, that is pride.
 - d. To worship accurately, you must understand the word of God.
 - e. Garden of Eden: Adam and Eve thought they had a better process than God. This is pride and it causes a fall every time.
 - f. Don't let anybody name you. You are a child of the King. We are His—there is my identity.
- 3. Joy is released when Christian worship is a celebration of who God is and not just what He has done. (4-5).**
- If we are down, He is the one who can lift us. Don't focus on the hurt. Look to God for your help.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are barriers to true worship? How can we overcome them?
2. Share when you have experienced joy in worship. If you have not experienced joy in worship, what are you willing to change so that you can?
3. What did Pastor Washington mean when he said, Let people "have their moment" in worship? Why is it important?
4. Why is it important to understand the word of God to worship accurately?
5. "It is He who made us and not we ourselves." How does this Scripture impact how we worship?