

June 6, 2021

Psalm 100

Children's message: Psalm 100 is actually a song of thanksgiving. David is expressing his gratefulness to God. This is only one of five written by David that are thanksgiving songs or psalms. David was the one who instructed us to always give thanks to God and to always start our conversations to God with it.

What really jumped out at me with this song was how David compares God to a shepherd. He does this in verse three, "We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." This is an odd comparison. When I looked into it further, I found that it was very common at this time in history. People from Egypt to Persia often compared their kings to shepherds. People were doing this long before David did. It was a culturally accepted way of writing about their kings. I found it interesting that David was a shepherd boy before he became king. The thing that is unique about David is that he took it one step further. He compares God to a shepherd. This does kind of make sense, since God is the King of Kings. So He must be a shepherd too.

This comparison got me to thinking about the similarities between a king and a shepherd. How much do they have in common? They both lead their people and sheep. They make sure that both are protected and safe. The shepherd will lay his life down to protect their sheep. Remember that Jesus said that. He also told us that the hireling will run away in the face of danger because he is not a shepherd. So shepherds are loyally committed to their flock. A king will go into battle to protect

his people and possibly risk his life. I can see why people would compare kings and shepherds. They do have much in common.

David goes on to remind us that God is good and merciful toward us. These qualities are eternal with God and how He deals with us. So much so that we have been upgraded from sheep to sons and daughters of God because of Jesus's resurrection. We are children and heirs of Heaven. Jesus tells us in John 10-11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." He is talking about His death and resurrection from the dead in order to save us from our sins. Jesus has also been called the King of Kings.

David's songs or Psalms have an ability to speak about Jesus before He came to earth. Many of the Psalms talk about Jesus's ministry amongst us in an indirect way. David is giving thanks to God before Jesus arrives. We should always be giving thanks to God for sending Jesus to us. We should also give thanks because He is coming again.

Adult's message: When we zone out we often say that we are in our happy place. We all seem to have one. If not, you should work at developing one. This morning David is in his happy place. His song is up- beat and celebratory with gladness and singing. Almost if we were at a sporting event or concert, but in person. That would make many happy and put them in a happy place.

As Christians we should say we have a blessed place. Only because we are always in the presence of God. All of creation has a part of God in it. He is the One that made everything. Creation is a thought and intention of God made manifest in this earthly realm. Everything has

some God in it but it is not God. He is everywhere and fills all things. God continuously looks down on the creation He made. So then we are always in His presence. The earth is part of His court and realm. We should be thankful and always praising His. This is our blessed place. Maybe not our happy place but our God given, grace filled blessed place.

In a round-about way, David tries to illustrate this. He reminds us that we are God's people or His sheep. God is the One who made us and everything around us. It is not the other way around. We are to remember our place as God's people made by Him. That we are made in His image. The important word here is made. We are not the makers. Knowing this and being reminded of it should keep us humble.

There are times when our egos swell and we delude ourselves. All of creation was not a random act as some would have you believe. When we believe that then we no longer need God. We have taken Him out of the equation. Then eventually we will make ourselves god. When this happens then there is no need for thanksgiving to God and we have become the ungodly. This is the path that David warned us about going down last week.

Giving thanksgiving and being grateful to God has its purpose. It reminds us of Who created us and Who is still in charge. That is truly something to be grateful for. God save us from ourselves and inspite of ourselves. God directed thanksgiving puts things in proper perspective. Always give Him thanksgiving regardless of our mood or situation. Most of David's Psalm are not this upbeat and happy. Like most artists their creation reflects their mood and situation. That is just the creative process. Some of Luther's music is very dark and depressing.

Kind of makes you happy God was in a good mood when He created everything. Yet we don't think of Him as a great musician and the symphonic interplay of creation. How it all works together in harmony and maybe we are all musical notes. I like that better than being a sheep.

God bless, stay safe and take care, enjoy the coming heat, Pastor D