

Ps. 100 “Shout Joyfully”

For the Children: When people are very happy or excited, they tend to raise their voices. When you find something especially funny, you laugh more loudly. At a birthday party, all the children make heaps of noise. Excited children about to go away on a holiday, can be very hard to quieten down. But we have more reasons to rejoice in the Lord Jesus than in anything else. When we worship God, we should therefore be filled with joy and sing and praise Him with a loud voice. **Questions:** Why do people sometimes worship without making much noise? What is even more important than making a loud noise with our lips? What are the reasons for being joyful as God's people?

Introduction:

First Point: The Command to Rejoice

- 1) Three Joy-Words: The word translated “shout joyfully” means “to raise a noise of exultation.” We rejoice to see how great God is. This joy should be given by “all the earth.” Even the inarticulate Creation responds to its Maker with joy. “Gladness” implies a whole-hearted joy. “Joyful singing” implies a loud shout or song, driven by holy joy at seeing God’s saving acts.
- 2) An Inward and Outward Response: These words together indicate that joy is to be sincere – an inward response; leading to an outward exuberance.
- 3) A Loud Noise: Two of these words imply that our exuberance is to be expressed by making a loud noise e.g. in singing – a “joyful shout”; and a “shout of holy joy.” This is not volume for the sake of it. It comes from the recognition that the Lord deserves to have a great throng raising their voices in a loud noise, moved by His Word and desiring to give a witness to Him. The opposite is to have a lack-lustre approach to worship.

Second Point: The Reason to Rejoice

- 1) The Lord Himself Is God: The best way to overcome a lack-lustre approach to worship is to consider how great a privilege it is that we are permitted to draw close to Him in worship – though we are finite sinners and He is the infinitely great and holy God.
- 2) His Attributes and Works: We should also be moved to joy by remembering that the God we worship is our Creator and Shepherd. He is “good” (v. 5), “lovingkind” and “faithful.” This is seen above all in the sending of His Son for us. Praising God for these things should lead us to rejoice in Him as well.
- 3) The Blessings We Receive: When we count our blessings, both temporal and eternal, we are moved to give thanks. These blessings are also a cause of joy, so thanksgiving and joy should be found together.
- 4) The Lord Jesus: All of the above reasons are found most fully in the Lord Jesus. He reveals God most fully, is our Good Shepherd, shows God’s goodness, mercy and covenant-faithfulness most fully. In Him, we are most greatly blessed. The Lord’s Supper, which focuses on these truths, should therefore be a joyful celebration.

Conclusion:

