Slide 1

Be Thankful

PSALM 100:1-5

Introduction

1. Two of the most cherished words in all of the English language are the words "Thank you." Why?
2. For the person you thank, it . . .
   a. Proves that you noticed what they did for you — the time, energy and kindness they expended on your behalf.
   b. Makes them feel valued, which will most likely make them want to help others.
3. If we are the ones being thanked, it . . .
   a. Lifts our mood and lowers our stress level.
   b. Fosters trust, mutual respect and a deeper sense of connection with those around us.
   c. Shifts our focus from those things which create stress in our lives to the positive support we have received for a good deed we have done.
4. This Thursday, November 26th, many throughout this nation will gather in the home of a loved one or as friends to celebrate Thanksgiving.
5. I pray that each of us will stop, before we enjoy our meals and the time we will spend with family and friends to say "Thank you."
6. But to whom are we to speak these words?
7. It is to the one who has given us "life and breath and all things" (Acts 17:25), the one from whom "every good thing given and every perfect gift" (James 1:17) comes — "the Father of lights," our God.
8. In our Bibles at the beginning of Psalm 100 there is a superscription.

Slide 2

9. Depending upon the translation you are using, this superscription reads in one of the following ways:
   a. "A Psalm of Thanksgiving" (NKJV, HCSB)
   b. "A Psalm for Thanksgiving" (NASB95)
   c. "A Psalm for Giving Thanks" (ESV, NIV84)
   d. "A Psalm of Praise" (KJV, note beside the word "praise" suggests "thanksgiving" as alternate translation)
10. In this psalm, all the earth is commanded to praise the Lord, and how we are to do that.
11. Throughout the rest of the psalm the writer tells us three other things:
    a. What we are to know about the One we worship.
    b. How we are to approach Him.
    c. Why such a response is appropriate.
12. It is my prayer that as we work through this psalm, you will have a greater appreciation for our heavenly Father and a heartfelt desire to praise Him.

Slide 3

I. Our Exhortation To Praise The Lord

A. SHOUT

"Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth." (Psalm 100:1, NASB95)

1. If you are reading from the KJV or the ESV this morning, you will notice that your translation has "Make a joyful noise to the Lord."
2. This noise or shout often referenced a battle cry as an army was running into the battle or the shout of triumph when victory was certain.
3. In Psalm 98:4, we find the psalmist crying out,

> "Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;
> Break forth and sin for joy and sing praises."
> (Psalm 98:4, NASB95)

Slide 4

4. In Psalm 96:1-4, we find the psalmist calling us to sing:

> "Sing to the Lord a new song;
> Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
> Sing to the Lord, bless His name;
> Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.
> Tell of His glory among the nations,
> His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.
> For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
> He is to be feared above all gods."
>
> (Psalm 96:1–4, NASB95)

Side 5

B. SERVE

"Serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2a, NASB95)

1. Not only are we to shout, we are to serve the Lord.
2. However, our service is not to be rendered grudgingly or out of necessity, but with gladness and sincerity of heart.
3. Why? Because we have come here today to give ourselves to the Lord — to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
4. In his letter to the saints in Rome, the apostle Paul wrote, "I urge you brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship" (Romans 12:1).

Slide 6

C. COME

"Come before Him with joyful singing." (Psalm 100:2b, NASB95)

1. The last command which the psalmist issues to us is "Come before Him."

2. The manner in which we "come before Him" is "with joyful singing" — a heart filled with joy at the privilege of singing His praise.

Slide 7

5. There is a song which we have sung with our youth which expresses such singing:

You are the words and the music,
You are the song that I sing,
You are the melody, you are the harmony,
Praise to your name I will bring,
You are the Lord of lords,
You are the Mighty God
You are the King of all kings,
So now I give back to you,
The song that you gave to me,
You are the song that I sing.

Slide 8

II. Why Do We Give Such Worship To God?

A. HE IS GOD

"Know that the Lord Himself is God" (Psalm 100:3a, NASB95)

1. He is God, there is no other (Isaiah 45:5).

"I am the Lord, and there is no other;
Besides Me there is no God"
(Isaiah 45:5, NASB95).

2. In 1 Kings 18, we encounter the showdown on Mt. Carmel between a lone prophet of God named Elijah and the 450 prophets of the false god, Baal.
3. When God sent down fire from heaven to consume not only the sacrifice which Elijah had prepared but also the wood, stones of the altar and the water he had poured upon that sacrifice, all the people fell on their faces and cried out, "The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God" (1 Kings 18:39).

4. It was Moses, who wrote in Psalm 90:2, "from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

Slide 9

B. HE MADE US

"It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves" (Psalm 100:3b, NASB95)

1. In Genesis 1:27, Moses wrote, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:27).
2. Again in Genesis 2:7, Moses wrote, "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."
3. You and I do not exist independently of God, nor are we capable of doing so (Acts 17:28).

"In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28, ESV).

Slide 10

C. WE ARE HIS PEOPLE

"We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." (Psalm 100:3c, NASB95)

1. Long ago as the Israelites were encamped before Mt. Sinai, God said to them through Moses, "I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people" (Leviticus 26:11-12, NASB95)
2. Time and time again after that, God referred to the Israelites as His people.
3. He became the Great Shepherd of Israel.
4. This is why David wrote, "the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).
5. Those of us here today who have put on Christ and wear His name are God's people.

Slide 11

6. It was the apostle Peter who wrote of us and said,

> "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:9–10, NASB95)

Slide 12

III. How Are We To Approach Him?

A. WITH THANKSGIVING

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving . . . give thanks to Him, bless His name" (Psalm 100:4a,c, NASB95)

1. When the Israelites of old entered the gates of the temple to worship the Lord, they were to do so with thanksgiving.
2. We have entered into God's presence this morning as we have come here to worship Him.
3. Have we done so with gratitude.
4. In our hymnals there is a hymn titled "I Will Bless Thee O Lord" which has these words:

> **I will bless Thee, O Lord,**
> **I will bless Thee, O Lord,**
> **With a heart of thanksgiving,**
> **I will bless Thee, O Lord.**

5. In Psalm 63:4, David declared, "I will bless You as long as I live."
6. Is that true of us here today, that we will continue to thank God as long as we live?

Slide 13

B. WITH PRAISE

"Enter His . . . courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4b, NASB95)

1. In Psalm 104:33, the psalmist wrote,

   "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

   I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."

   (Psalm 104:33, NASB95)

2. There is a hymn of praise taken straight from Psalm 148, which was written over 230 years ago, but is still one of the most powerful hymns of praise.

Slide 14

Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore Him
Praise Him, angels in the height;
Sun and moon rejoice before Him;
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Hallelujah! Amen, Hallelujah!
Amen, Amen, Amen

Slide 15

IV. Why Is This Response Appropriate?

A. THE LORD IS GOOD

"For the Lord is good" (Psalm 100:5a, NASB95)

1. He is the only one who is truly good.
2. It was David who wrote, "For You, Lord, are good and ready to forgive" (Psalm 86:1).
3. In Psalm 25:8, he wrote, "Good and upright is the Lord."
4. And we often sing,

   God is so good, God is so good,
   God is so good, He's so good to me.

5. How many of us were taught this simple prayer when we were young?

   "God is good, God is great, let us thank Him for our food. Amen."

Slide 16

B. HIS LOVINGKINDNESS IS EVERLASTING

"His lovingkindness is everlasting" (Psalm 100:5b, NASB95)

1. Not only is God good, "His lovingkindness [steadfast love] is everlasting."
2. Scripture does not separate one from the other.
3. After bringing the ark into Jerusalem, David assigned Asaph and the singers to sing a hymn which included these words,

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

For His lovingkindness is everlasting."

(1 Chronicles 16:34, NASB95)

4. It was the prophet Jeremiah, who, following the destruction of Jerusalem wrote these words:

Slide 17

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,

"therefore I will hope in him.""

(Lamentations 3:22–24, ESV)

Slide 18

C. HIS FAITHFULNESS ENDURES THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS

"His faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 100:5c, NASB95)

1. Our God is faithful to prevent Satan from tempting us beyond what we are able to bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).
2. He will provide us a way of escape so that we may be able to endure the temptation.
3. In 1 Thessalonians 5:24, Paul wrote "Faithful is He who calls you, and He will bring it to pass."

4. The "it" of which Paul speaks is that "your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

5. Because the Lord is faithful, "He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one" (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

Conclusion

1. You and I are privileged to worship such a God this morning.
2. No one else loves us as He does.
3. He alone is God, and He alone has the power to redeem us and take us to an eternal home unlike anything we can imagine.
4. Do you love Him?
5. Have you given your life to Him in obedient faith? If not, why not today?