

“Make a Joyful Noise!”

Jan 17, 2021

Psalm 100 and Matthew 6: 25-33

Let us Pray: Dear Lord, may the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you. Amen.

Our lesson this morning from the 100th Psalm is pretty clear.

Make a joyful noise!

It doesn't say make a “grumbling noise

It doesn't say “Complain to the Lord”

Nor does it say, “Make a whining noise”

But JOYFUL!

It infers an appreciation...a sense of wonder,

An enjoyment of all life.

A celebration of life and a oneness with creation!

It's the ability to see the sunset and smell the roses.

Make a joyful noise means-

Notice the clouds in the blue sky and hear the birds.

We can't go through life in a semi-conscious state,

in our own little world, unaware of feelings about us.

We need to notice the world about us and all its wonder and beauty.

Make a joyful noise involves an appreciation of the world.

It implies looking at the positive side and seeing the silver lining.

So easily, we get caught up in the negative.

We see only ugliness and bleakness.

Take Monday mornings as an example.

Heck, take Monday's! Monday gets some bad press, just for being Monday.

We can get caught in a trap that can only lead to a state of despair
...lack of hope...void of enjoyment.

We in-turn grow into an ugly, unhappy, unpleasant monster.

Don't we? We just are unable to see the good!

The 100th Psalm asks us to make a joyful noise,
a happy noise...to be contented.

(pause) And who is it that we are to make a joyful noise too?

The Lord!!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Can you imagine how tired God must be of our frowns and long faces?

Don't you think God has had enough of our negative attitude and our discontent?

I mean, after all...He's our creator.

And He created the earth we live in, so if we constantly complain,
it can only be a reflection on Him and His creation, right?

We are implying that his creation is lousy and He did a rotten job.

(pause) Now we don't right out and say this, but our daily complaints
and moaning clearly demonstrates this time after time.

(Pause) our negative approach to life, is in fact a negative approach to
God.

Vs 3 reads “Know that the Lord is God! It is He that has made us and we are His.”

And verse 2 reads: “Serve the Lord with gladness!”

Again, it’s not grumbling, contempt, complaining or ugliness.

So how do we serve the Lord?

(pause) by serving his creation.

By honoring it, preserving it, loving, enjoying and appreciating it.

People are also his creation!

Other people...not just us!

So it is loving and enjoying everyone around us!

And, ya know, there are some of us who may think...

“I have no complaints with God’s creation, but he did foul up with one or two individuals.

If any of us think this way....it’s probably us that God fouled up with.

(Pause) I don’t serve the Lord by gossiping about a neighbor ...and pointing out their faults.

I don’t serve the Lord, by constantly complaining about someone

I don’t serve the Lord by trying to embarrass someone.

...or belittling ...or making a fool of them.

(pause) Those actions only serve...and feed, my ego!

(Pause) again...this is a trap that we can fall into...

Very similar to the “Monday sucks”...”I hate Mondays” trap.

Soon it becomes our personality...our habit...our way of being.

Serving the Lord with gladness involves looking for the good!

Looking for the beauty!

(Pause) Cause if we can't see good...how can we be glad?

And if I can't be glad...I can't serve the Lord!

But the good is there...it's out there...it's all about us!

That's the way God created it!

(Pause-water) Too frequently, we let life live us!

Do you know what I mean by that?

We allow outside forces to dictate our living.

Let's take "TIME" for example...

We are super conscious of time.

We set impossible time schedules for ourselves.

Everything has a sense of urgency about it.

We say things like "Gotta run" ... "gotta fly" ... "I only have a second"

There are books, Ted-Talks, college courses and even degrees

On time management.

(pause) this over concern with time leads us to become:

Anxious.....tense...and impatient.

Not to mention it makes us ill-natured and unhealthy.

Where are we rushing too??

We don't have time for our loved ones, our children, our friends.

Going for a walk, is a waste of time.

Something is wrong, isn't it?

Our priorities have gone haywire!

It's no wonder we are incapable of making a joyful noise.

We don't have time.

We don't even have time to see the joy!

(Pause) The greatest joy in our life is if we are on our self-imposed frantic time schedule.

If your greatest joy this hour is that I end on time...

there's something wrong!

How do we get out of this time panic state?

Don't set your Sunday roast in your crock pot to be done by 11:30.

Don't set such tight time schedules.

Go for walks....walk to church...stop and talk to people.

Now we drive by and beep the horn...(That's not a joyful noise)

Verse 4 reads "Give thanks to Him"

Notice the assumption the Psalmist makes...

There is an assumption that we have something to be thankful for.

We all have our families...our health...our lives!

Yes, but my mother would say- be more specific.

In regard to your life, what specifically are you thankful for?

Well how about gazing at the stars...walking with dogs...

listening to the owls hoot away...enjoying conversations.

In order to give thanks....(pause) we've got to slow down to the point that we can notice God's creation.

We've got to be a little calmer.

We've got to be a little more relaxed.

I love the game of basketball....I always have.

And during any game, if the game is getting out of control

If a coach see's his team floundering

If a coach see's his team forgetting what he's coached them

If the coach feels he's losing it.

(Pause) He call time out!

(pause) that's what we have to do....Call time.

Consider God's creation.

Consider those around you.

Consider gazing at the stars and listening to the owls hooting away.

If we do this...perhaps, we can notice that the Lord is good!

Maybe we'll see that his creation is good.

And then...perhaps we can make a Joyful Noise!

Amen.

