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Title: "What Everyone Should Bring to Church"

Text: Psalm 100:1-5

A lot of things are brought to church on any given Sunday. Of course, there are the snacks and toys to entertain the kids. Some have brought books and even read them during church! I'm rather sure some things would be better left at home. Of course, there are those items that we would do well to bring to church. The obvious things are: 1. A Bible - in book or digital form. 2. Tithe and offerings. 3. A friend, neighbor, or even an enemy (who could become a friend by the time you leave the service). There are other things everyone should bring to church. As the Church - as a part of God's family, we are commanded to gather ourselves together and WORSHIP HIM. Hebrews 10:25 - *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."* We are not to forsake or stop meeting together. It's a place we can exhort (encourage) one another, and all the more the closer we get to Jesus' return. With that in mind, let it be said that this Psalm 100 tells us exactly what everyone ought to bring to church when they come.

- 1. Bring the Right SPIRIT (vs. 1-2). A. A Shouting Spirit (vs. 1).** *"Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!"* We are told to *"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."* Let's break this down and see what He is commanding us to do. First, there is the word *"Make"* - this word means to *"Make music"*. It is used to refer to singing and to the Psalms. Then, there is the word *"Joyful"*. This word means *"to give a public confession of the attributes and works of God."* Thirdly, there is the word *"Noise"*. This word means *"to raise a shout."* It refers to a *"ringing cry"* - a cry that is easily heard! When all these things are put together, we can see that the Psalmist is calling on God's people to praise the Lord from their hearts. We are being called upon to participate in the public praise of God's Person and works. Psalm 40:1-3 - *"I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth - Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD."* Here the Psalmist tells us what the Lord did for us when He saved us. These verses tell us that He put *"a new song in my mouth."* No longer was I singing after the world and all it offered. Now I was singing to the Lord Who sought me and bought me and brought me out! The right spirit is a SHOUTING spirit! Remember, genuine praise is always vocal, visible and public! GOD doesn't get any glory when we hold it in!
B. A Serving Spirit (vs. 2a). *"Serve the Lord with gladness..."* The word *"serve,"* means *"to be in bondage to"*. It refers to doing whatever the master tells the slave to do. It means *"to be at his beck and call."* When we got saved, we became the Lord's property. 1 Corinthians 6:20 - *"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."* We are to do what He tells us to do without question or hesitation. Some folks don't much like that. There are those who don't want anyone telling them what to do. Well, if you didn't like that, then you aren't going to like this either! He tells us that we are to *"SERVE Him with GLADNESS."* This little word means *"with mirth."* This is a word that we don't use much today, but it means *"gaiety accompanied with laughter."* This verse is telling us that we are to serve the Lord with laughter IN CHURCH! We are to be so filled with love for Him that regardless of what He asks us to do, we are delighted to do it! This is the attitude that filled David's heart in Psalm 122:1 - *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'" He was filled with mirth when it was time to go to church! That word "gladness" is an interesting word. It carries with it the meaning of being "wide-eyed with a big grin." It brings to mind the simple, unbridled joy of a child. When something happens that they like, it affects the whole body! The mouth flies open, the eyes get wide, the face lights up, the heart lifts and the soul rejoices! Such should be the delight for every saint as we come to serve the Lord Who has redeemed us from death and Hell by His precious blood!*
C. A Singing Spirit (vs. 2b). *"...Come before His presence with singing."* How are we to approach the Lord? *"With singing."* This little word refers again to *"the ringing cry, the shout of joy."* Our hearts should be so filled with wonder of Who He is and what He has done for us that His praises just burst forth from our inner being. These first two verses tell us that when God is in your life, you will not be able to hide Him! You will not keep Him a secret for very long! You can't have someone the size of God in your heart without Him getting out now and then! Sometimes, He'll run out your eyes. Sometimes, He will show up in your raised hands. Sometimes, He'll run up your throat and over your vocal cords and make you shout. The fact is, you shouldn't be able to hide Him.

- 2. Bring the Right SUBMISSION (vs. 3).** *"Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture."* **A. Submit to the PERSON of God.** We are told to "know" that the Lord is God. This word means "to make a distinction." We are to know that He and He ALONE is God! Do you have it nailed down this morning WHO your God is? Is your God the God of the Bible? You might wonder how you can know. Well, the answer is simple: What do you give the most of your time, attention and money to? How we live should reflect WHO our God is! Have you made the right distinction and acknowledged God Almighty as the God of your life? By the way, if you ever get it nailed down in your soul that He is God and that He is superior to every other person, thing or activity in your life, then you will have no problem serving Him as you should! The reason some people have trouble tithing, getting to church, or just plain serving God as they should is that they have a different god than the God of the Bible. Who is your God today? **B. Submit to the PURPOSE of God.** Next, we are reminded that we are what we are because He has "made" us. This word simply means "to take some material and fashion something new out of it!" You see, God took the clay that was us and formed a new creature out of it by His power. Regardless of what we are today, we are what we are by THE POWER OF GOD! 1 Corinthians 15:10 - *"But by the grace of God I am what I am, (and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.)"* John 15:5 - *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING."* Without Him, we are a big, fat ZERO! We need to realize that God saved us for a purpose. He didn't just redeem us to just keep us out of Hell. He didn't redeem us so that we could feel good from time to time. He didn't do it so that we could look down our long, religious noses at our lost neighbors and feel superior. He saved us so that WE MIGHT SERVE HIM! Ephesians 2:10 - *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, (which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them)."* James 2:18 - *"But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."* God has a plan for your life. He will use you IF you will serve Him! **C. Submit to the PROMISE of God.** We are *"the sheep of His pasture."* This statement simply reminds us that WE BELONG TO HIM and just as a shepherd looks after the welfare of his own, so our Lord looks after us with infinite care. David had this nailed down in his own life. Psalm 23 - *"The LORD is my Shepherd..."* You and I need to get it nailed down in our lives also. If we ever grasped the truth that *"The LORD is my Shepherd"*, it would forever transform us. We would realize that we never have to worry about a need being met. We never have to fear anything that arises in life. We have His promises and His guarantee that all is in His control. Romans 8:28 - *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."* Philippians 4:6-7 - *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Hebrews 13:5 - *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"* If you are saved, you belong to the Chief Shepherd and He will take care of the needs that arise in your life. The problem we have is that many of us have not yet learned to trust Him as we should! We need to be committed to a life of faith. We need to trust the Lord to take care of us and watch over our lives. If you are His sheep, He WILL take care of you! If He can't, then He isn't much of a Shepherd or God!
- 3. Bring the Right SACRIFICE (vs. 4-5).** *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations."* In the Tabernacle and Temple days, the priest had better not enter the presence of the Lord without the right sacrifice. To do so meant death. Hebrews 9:7 - *"But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance..."* Thank God, we do not have to offer a blood sacrifice today! Jesus Christ has already taken care of that forever! Hebrews 10:10-14 - *"By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And the priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, for that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."* Notice the emphasis on "once for all" and "one sacrifice." I don't have to sacrifice any animals! Jesus doesn't have to die again! Yet, there is still a sacrifice that the people of God need to bring. It isn't your money, although you should bring your tithes and offerings! It isn't your attendance, although many of you probably should be at church more often than you are. There is just one sacrifice the Lord

expects every saint to bring to church when they come, and it is revealed in these last two verses of Psalm 100. We are told to bring the sacrifice of "praise." Notice the emphasis of verse 4. God's house is to be a place of praise unto Him. We are given an invitation (given the privilege) to come into His presence. We are told to enter "into His gates." Gates are defensive weapons and are usually closed to all outsiders. However, through the blood of Jesus, we are no longer the enemies of God. 1 John 3:1-3 - *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."* The gates which were once closed to us are opened wide AND we are called upon to enter into the presence of God as we bring to Him the sacrifice of praise for our salvation. Next, we are invited to enter "into His courts with praise." Note that we are not just allowed access to the outer limits of His sanctuary, BUT we are invited to walk into the throne room, where we can meet Him in all of His glory! No wonder the Psalmist challenges us to be thankful and to bless His Name. We are counseled to bring the right sacrifice when we enter. We are told to bring the SACRIFICE OF PRAISE! Verse 5 gives us three reasons for praising His Name. **Praise God for His GOODNESS.** We are told that the Lord is "good." This seems like a limited description for God, but the word means "pleasant, beautiful, delightful, glad, joyful, precious, correct and righteous." It can also mean "expensive." Everything God does is an expression of His goodness! We can praise our God because He is good! Regardless of what happens in life, God is good! No matter how things turn out, God is STILL good! Therefore, praise Him for His goodness! **Praise God for His MERCY.** Next we are told that God's "mercy is everlasting." We can praise God because He is constantly extending His mercy to us as we go through life. As you know, mercy is defined as "not getting what you deserve." We live in a time when it's said - everyone wants what's coming to them. Not me! If I got what was coming to me, I would get Hell. If I got what I deserved, I'd experience the undiluted wrath and fierceness of the Almighty! Instead of that, God deals with me in mercy. He holds back His wrath from my life. Why! 2,000 years ago God's Son, Jesus, took my place on an old, cruel, rugged (Roman) cross. While He was dying there, all my sins were transferred to Him and He died in my place. As He was dying, God looked at Jesus and saw MY sins - and YOUR sins! When He was on the cross, I was on His mind. He saw me hanging there that day and He poured out His wrath into the Person of His Own Begotten Son. God extinguished His wrath toward me that day, and now, I enjoy mercy! AND...His mercy will never be exhausted. Lamentations 3:22-23 - *"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."* We will never use it up! He makes a fresh batch every day! That is a good reason to praise the Lord! **Praise God for His GUARANTEE.** We are told that God's "truth endureth to all generations." Simply stated, while the years pile up, not a single promise of God's Word will fail! You see, God cannot lie, and what He has promised will be as good in 10,000 years as it was the instant He promised it! Hebrews 6:18 - *"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us..."* When He tells you HE LOVES YOU, you can count on it! When He tells you HE'LL SAVE YOU if you come to Him, you can count on it! If He tells you that HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, you can count on it! If He tells you HE IS COMING BACK to get you, you can count on it! If He tells you HE'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU, you can count on it! Suffice it to say that if the Lord tells you anything at all, you can count on it! And, that is a good reason to praise Him!

- 4. Conclusion.** Have you brought the right things to church today? Has the Lord spoken of areas in your life that need attention? Maybe you aren't as filled with His praises as you used to be. For some reason, just going to church is more difficult than it used to be for you and you know you need to deal with this before the Lord. Maybe you have never been saved and you want to get to know this wonderful Lord that the Bible talks about in this Psalm. You come and He'll meet you right down here. I don't know your hearts today, but I know that some of you need to look at what you are bringing to church. Did you bring - the right spirit, the right submission and the right sacrifice? Let's obey the Lord. As He calls you, you come to Him.