

SING A SONG OF PRAISE / Sunday, December 14, 2014

Unifying Topic: MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Lesson Text

I. **The Call To Worship** (Psalm 95:1-2)

II. **The Reason For Worship** (Psalm 95:3-5)

III. **How To Worship The Lord** (Psalm 95:6-7)

Lesson Text: O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. (Psalms 95:1, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Many people realize that a power beyond them gives meaning to their lives. How do they respond to this knowledge? The psalmist declares that God is the rock of their salvation and is worth of praise and worship.

Lesson Aim: To remind believers that God is the Creator of the whole earth and the Maker of all men and women, and to warn believers to heed the voice of God

Life Aim: To help believers shed inhibitions about worship in order to praise God exuberantly and freely.

95:1 O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

95:2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

95:3 For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

95:4 In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also.

95:5 The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.

95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

95:7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,

HISTORY:

Psalms 95 to 100 have a common theme that is undoubtable. They all begin with a summons to praise the lord God, though each is distinctive in that praise, with Psalm 95 as the keynote. There is nothing in these psalms that warrant a specific date for their composition. Many scholars see in them the type of praise that would have been characteristic of Israel after their return from the Babylonian captivity, and some say that they were composed for the dedication of the second temple. Yet, there is nothing historical in these psalms to warrant such precise dating. The psalm has two parts: the first a celebration of God's kingship and the privilege that His people enjoy as they worship Him (Ps.95:1-7a), and the second a warning not to repeat the rebellion of their ancestors (vv.7b-11). Though messianic, it still has reference to the people of God throughout all ages to come.

LESSON:

Psalm 95:1-2 The Call To Worship

A call to rejoice:

95:1 O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. ¹We can safely assume then, that this Psalm is of David. This Psalm is an appeal to worship God in song and praise. And it is just as important for believers in Christ. It appears from this verse above, that the object of our praise in song should be to the "*Rock of our salvation.*" Jesus is the Rock of our salvation. He is the one upon whom His people could rely on for deliverance. We are saved by the grace of God. He is a place of everlasting strength and safety now and all the way to Eternity. This is what we should be singing praises of. Each country and each culture usually has a different kind of *worship* service but each one seeking to *worship* the same God. And if other nations can enthusiastically worship their false gods, should not the people of God be more enthusiastic in their worship of Jehovah? In the New Testament, John 4:23 tells us that God is seeking people who will *worship* Him in spirit and in truth. This is how we show love and adoration for our God: we are to make a joyful noise in our singing. A joyful noise signifies to make a loud noise, either with the voice or with instruments. Therefore, in our first call we have an invitation to worship God joyfully!

95:2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. Our second invitational call is to come before His presence with thanksgiving! We should shout it from the rooftops, because we have so much to thank God for. ²It was the custom of the Jewish people to come into God's presence with singing of the Psalms. The presence of God was with the Israelites, in a very special way, in the tabernacle in the wilderness. God is omnipresent {everywhere all at the same time}. Many times in prayer, we are in that special presence of God; He is particularly present in those places sanctified and set apart unto Him. We must remember

¹<http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/psalms/94.html>

² <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/psalms/94.html>

<http://pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

to be in a spirit of praise and thanksgiving at those times. Praise causes the presence of God to be with us. God inhabits the praises of His people. In both verses it brings His people together: Let us make...Let us come... How? Making a joyful noise with thanksgiving! It is a call and invitation to worship Him!

Psalm 95:3-5 The Reason For Worship

A call to reverence:

95:3 For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. The psalmist now gives us reasons to calling Israel to praise God; and we as well are to follow. The reason is because *the Lord is a great God, and a great King*. He is above any false god (who only existed as statues; man-made, not as persons but only fixated in the mind). God is supreme above all!

95:4 In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. This refers to the depths of the seas valleys, and caverns and contrasts with the hills. The point is like that of verse 1, God was not a local god like the imaginary gods of the heathens, but He is the Creator and Ruler of the whole earth. "*In His hand*" means in His power; in His command are the formations of the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains. In His hand there is no mountain tall enough that He is not God of; there is no depth {even hell} that He is not God of. He is God of the whole universe

95:5 The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. God has made all things well and even in His hand He's made the sea and formed the dry land.

Psalm 95:6-7 How To Worship The Lord

95:6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. Our third invitational call is to now bow down and worship our Maker. "*Worship*" is to prostrate oneself before Him in humility.

95:7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,— We know from Psalms 100 that we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. And John 10 depicts our relationship to the Good Shepherd. And Him being our Good Shepherd, we are under His care and we are to hear His voice if we are His sheep; and worship Him, for He is our God!

SUMMARY:

God is described as the Rock of our salvation, and our call and invitation is to sing unto the Lord by making a joyful sound, as we enter into His presence with thanksgiving, with these psalms (1-2).

Upon entering into His presence, we realize our reason to sing: the Lord is a Great God; a Great King above all gods. The deep places of the earth are in His hands and the strength of the hills is His. The sea is His for He made it and His hands formed the dry land. That's why we sing a song of praise (3-5)!

Our singing escalates into worship. The reason to worship and bow down before the Rock of our salvation is because He is the Lord; our Maker; our God, and we His people, the sheep of His hand. There is no better opportunity (6-7)!

APPLICATION:

If we have experienced the bountiful and awesome way God has kept us and realized it was not of ourselves, we can't help but praise God with joy; not being afraid of whose is looking. He gives us the ability to show it within and without!