Grateful Hearts, Open Hands (4)
"Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving"
Psalm 100

Big Idea: Gratitude reshapes community life.

Introduction: Today we arrive at Psalm 100. And Thanksgiving week is almost here. But Psalm 100 reminds us that thanksgiving was never meant to stay at the dinner table. *It belongs in the heart of the people of God.* In fact, Psalm 100 is not primarily the picture of one private individual sitting alone saying, *"Lord, I am thankful."* It is the sound of a whole people coming together. *When grateful people gather, something ought to be different*. Psalm 100 shows us what.

I. The call to celebration: (vv. 1–2)

A. Our praise should be audible. — *v. 1* Scripture will not allow us to make worship completely silent and invisible. There are times when praise ought to get out of the heart and through the mouth.

B. Our service should be joyful. — *v. 2* Worship is not only what we sing. - Worship is also how we serve. The Lord is interested not merely in *whether we serve, but in the spirit with which we serve.*

C. Our worship should be together. — *v. 2* There is something God does when His people gather that cannot be duplicated by isolated Christianity.

II. The certainty of our connection: (v. 3)

A. We know who God is. — *v. 3 This becomes essential in those moments when you do not know what God is doing.*

B. We know who made us. — *v. 3 That statement produces humility* - I am not self-created.

C. We know "whose" we are. — *v. 3 one of the sweetest phrases in the psalm: "We are His people."*

D. We know who shepherds us. — *v. 3* We are like sheep. That's not too complimentary but it is accurate because: (*Sheep need guidance. - Sheep need protection.- Sheep need provision. -Sheep occasionally wander).* Aren't you glad, the Shepherd stays faithful.

III. The coming into His courts: (v. 4)

A. We enter thankfully. — *v. 4* What if we came to church already looking for reasons to thank God?

B. We worship positively. — *v. 4 Praise turns attention toward God.*

C. We speak gratefully. — *v. 4* Gratitude ought to become verbal. - Tell God. And while you are at it, tell somebody else.

D. We bless personally. — *v. 4* Do not merely enjoy His gifts. - Bless the Giver.

IV. The character of our God: (v. 5)

A. His goodness never changes. — *v. 5* Not merely: God does good things. God is good!

B. His mercy never expires. — *v. 5 You cannot exhaust God's covenant mercy.*

C. His truth never fails. — *v. 5 His truth never retires, age or weaken.*

V. The community gratitude creates: (cf. *Col. 3:15–17)*

A. Gratitude quiets complaint. – gratitude is not blindness, it just reuses to make complaining the dominate language.

B. Gratitude strengthens fellowship. – grateful people are less demanding.

C. Gratitude encourages testimony - *Psalms 100 is loud!*

D. Gratitude turns attention outward. - *"Lord, You have been so good to me—how can I let some of that goodness overflow through me?"*

Conclusion: What Are You Bringing Through the Gates?
A question for Thanksgiving week: What am I carrying in my heart when I enter—complaint or thanksgiving?

Remember: We give thanks not because everything is good, but because the LORD is good. (J*n 10:11)*

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name." — Psalm 100:4

A grateful heart changes more than one person—it changes the room.