

---

---

# Sermon Notes

November 21, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

## A Thanksgiving Recipe Psalm 95

### Worship... How?

- ❖ Psalm 95 tells us **how** to worship, **why** we should worship and gives us a **warning** about what can happen to us if we refuse to worship
- ❖ “Let us”
  - sing
  - make a joyful noise
  - come into His presence
- ❖ Come with enthusiastic, joyful celebration
  - a robust appetite for God... a hunger and thirst to be in His presence
  - praise God with “all you’ve got”
    - singing: with head and heart
    - joyful shout: a shared, unified exuberance

### Worship... Why?

- ❖ We worship the LORD because
  - He is a great God
  - He is a great King above all gods
- ❖ You cannot worship God until you know and understand who He is
- ❖ Greatness points not only to God’s immensity but also to the unlimited scope of His activity in creating, sustaining, and governing His creation
- ❖ The LORD is our Maker
  - He is our God
  - we are His people, the sheep of His hand
- ❖ We worship God not only because He creates us and gives us life but because He has given His life for us

### Worship... A Warning

- ❖ God’s people need to know about the kind of worship God accepts
  - worship without obedience is “a sham”
  - worship without obedience leads to God’s judgment
    - Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13 in Matthew 15:7 *ff.*
    - ***Today, if you hear His voice*** is a reminder that worship begins with listening rather than speaking

- true worship begins with listening to what God speaks to us in His Word
- ❖ True thanksgiving rests on a recital of who God is, what God has done and a corresponding willingness to obey and submit to His perfect revealed Word and will
  - a sobering illustration from Israel's history (Exodus 17 and Numbers 20)
  - this history summarizes and illustrates the serious consequences that can result from disobeying God
  - a spirit of unbelief characterizes the events that take place at Massah and Meribah
    - testing and unbelief are the default mode of these Israelites
    - testing and unbelief characterize their entire desert journey
- ❖ If you intend to worship God, you must not harden your heart against God's Word, quarrel with Him or test Him as the Israelites did
- ❖ Hebrews 3:17-4:13 provides a lengthy, Holy Spirit inspired commentary on this warning from Psalm 95
  - the most thorough citing of an OT passage in the NT
  - the author of Hebrews takes the warning of this psalm and applies it to salvation through faith in Christ
    - **Today** means right now... this contemporary moment
    - **Rest...** the promised rest of salvation and ultimately the rest God promises His own in heaven

- the warning is for those who have heard the gospel but only responded to it at a surface level
- a people who honor God with their lips, but their heart is far from Him
- a people who go astray in their hearts, and who have not known the Lord's ways

#### ❖ **TODAY**

- it is imperative for you to believe on Jesus Christ **NOW**, while it is still **TODAY**
- none of us hears God's voice as clearly or as readily as we should
- have you trusted Christ for salvation? are you listening to Him, obeying Him, worshipping Him?

<h3><b>Personal Application</b></h3>
--------------------------------------

1. When you join others for shared worship, how closely does your expression of worship align with the picture of worship described in Psalm 95? Where is there room for personal growth with respect to this?
2. You cannot worship God until you know and understand who He is. How closely are you listening to how God reveals Himself in His Word? Based on that, how closely are you following Him with obedience?
3. How does internalizing Psalm 95 lead you to express true thanksgiving to God, **TODAY**?