

1 **The Great Gates of Praise**

- How to enter a whole new World

2 **Sermon Review**

3 **Introduction**

- With Thanksgiving arriving next week, many folks will be heading over the river and through the woods to Grandma's house for the big day and the even bigger meal.
- In fact, the week of Thanksgiving is typically the most active time for travel in the United States, with airports and roads jammed with people trying to get into or out of the city.

4 **Introduction**

- It's a time that stretches our transportation infrastructure to the brink, but a little luck and a lot of patience will allow us eventually to see the skyline or the city limit sign of our hometown.
- We know that a certain view, a certain exit, a certain landmark means that we're almost there.

5 **Introduction**

- That's a different experience from what most people would have had in the old world of Europe, Asia and the Middle East.
- When traveling to a major American city, the only gates one is likely to encounter are at the airport or at the tollbooth.

6 **Introduction**

- For centuries, however, old world cities were almost uniformly surrounded by defensive walls dotted with gates that limited access to the city and, in many ways, gave the city its character.
- While the walls of many of those cities are gone or are now monuments to the past, the great gates remain as a testament to the universal joy of coming home to a safe and familiar place.
- When you arrived at those old cities and went through the gate, it was a moment for rejoicing.

7 **Brandenburg Gate - Berlin, Germany**

8 **Gates**

9 **America's Most Famous Gate**

10 **Golden Gate- Jerusalem, Israel**

11 **Entering the Gates of Jerusalem**

- The gates of Jerusalem have a deep meaning.
- For those pilgrims traveling to the city from faraway places, entering the gates meant entering into the holy city and the temple, the dwelling place of God.

- To enter the gates of Jerusalem, then, was to enter into the very presence of God, which was cause for great songs like Psalm 100.

12 Psalm 100 - Song of Thanksgiving

- Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (Psa 100:1-3)
- Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psa 100:4–5 NIV)

13 Psalm 100 - Song of Thanksgiving

- Psalm 100 is one of the most familiar of the songs of praise in the Bible and the source of some of our most beloved songs of worship.
- The psalm itself is an invitation to sing: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing (v. 1).

14 Joyful Noise

- A “joyful noise” was the appropriate greeting for a monarch in the ancient world, and, in this case, it is “all the earth” that cries out in joy at the presence of the Creator.
- It’s the kind of joyful noise we might make when we enter the front door of the family home after a long absence; the excited cry of being home at last.
- When entering the gates of the Lord, those excited cries then turn to songs of worship.

15 Sing Praises to the Lord

- I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me. (Psa 13:6 NIV)
- Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! (Psa 32:11 NIV)
- Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. (Psa 33:1 NIV)
- I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you. (Psa 35:18 NIV)
- Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. (Psa 47:6 NIV)

16 Sing Praises to the Lord

- Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. (Psa 48:1 NIV)
- I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints. (Psa 52:9 NIV)

- Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. (Psa 63:3–5 NIV)

17 **Sing Praises to the Lord**

- Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! (Psa 66:2 NIV)
- Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; (Psa 66:8 NIV)
- I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. (Psa 69:30 NIV)
- It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, (Psa 92:1 NIV)
- Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. (Psa 95:1–2 NIV)

18 **Compliments are Important**

- To praise someone is showing that you value them and are appreciative for what they have done.
- It is a type of giving a compliments.
- “I can live for two months on a good compliment.” —Mark Twain.

19 **How To Give a Compliment**

- Be genuine.
- Be specific.
- Be unique.
- Acknowledge their effort.
- Describe the effect something has on you.
- Use emotional or descriptive language.
- Don't be backhanded.
- Don't wait for the perfect moment.
- Don't second-guess yourself.
- Be concise.
- Pause for effect.
- Don't expect anything in return.

20 **The Presence of the King**

- Raymond Edman was a missionary, a college president, an educator, an author, and friend to countless Christians and seekers alike.
- Billy Graham once called him the most unforgettable Christian he ever met.

21 **The Presence of the King**

- Edman served as chancellor of Wheaton College for many years.
- He died in 1967 in the most appropriate setting imaginable—though surely traumatic to those who were there. He passed away while preaching the chapel service at Wheaton.
- And his topic was worship and the title of his sermon was “The Presence of the King.”

22 **The Presence of the King**

- In his sermon that day, Dr. Edman shared with his listeners a personal anecdote.
- It involved his meeting with the king of Ethiopia some years earlier.
- In order to have an audience with the king, he had to observe strict protocol.
- If he didn't meet and follow through on each criterion, he wouldn't be judged worthy of coming into this king's presence.

23 **The Presence of the King**

- Dr. Edman then drew a parallel with attending weekday chapel services at Wheaton. "You have an audience with the King of Kings," he said.
- The ruler of Ethiopia or any other nation would fall on his face and cast his crown in the presence of the Almighty.
- Dr. Edman wondered if those in the audience really comprehended this awesome act of worship.
- He went on to offer practical suggestions of how to make chapel more meaningful, how to come to a better realization of being in the transforming presence of God.

24 **The Presence of the King**

- And just like that, in the very midst of his wise and godly counsel, Edman himself was taken from among them.
- He had gone to meet the Lord face to face.
- It was the last and greatest sermon illustration Raymond Edman ever shared.

25 **Honoring God in Worship**

- I just wonder how our lives would be better touched, if we would enter the gates of the LORD's presence with more praise, thanksgiving, and expressions of gratitude.
- The Bible says that to maximize the size of the “peace of God” we are to pray with thanksgiving.

- The Bible says as well, that to enter the presence of God in worship, we are to bring sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving.
- Even though, through Christ, we can approach the throne of God's grace with confidence, we nevertheless should do so with honor and expressions of gratitude.
- In fact all our prayers, supplications, and worship should be filled with expressions of thanksgiving and praise.

26 **Essence of Praise**

- Praise, according to the scriptures, is an act of our will that flows out of an awe and reverence for our Creator.
- Praise gives glory to God and opens us up to a deeper union with Him.
- It turns our attention off of our problems and on to the nature and character of God Himself.
- As we focus our minds on God and proclaim His goodness, we reflect His glory back to Him.
- The results can fill you with peace and contentment and transform your outlook on life.

27 **Essence of Praise**

- Very simply, we praise God because He is worthy of our praise (1 Chron. 16:25; Rev. 5:11-14).
- He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is our Creator, Provider, Healer, Redeemer, Judge, Defender and much more.
- However, praise must come from the heart and be sincere.
- It is not a means to bless ourselves, it is to be our response to God's goodness, faithfulness, and grace and can be expressed in song, in verse, in prayer, and by living a lifestyle that honors Him.

28 **Our Destiny**

- In fact, our destiny is to give God glory.
 - After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, . . . (Rev 7:9 NIV)
 - They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. (Rev 7:9 NIV)
 - And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Rev 7:10 NIV)

29 **Our Destiny**

- All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, . . . (Rev 7:12 NIV)
- . . . saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" (Rev 7:11 NIV)

30 **Conclusion**

- When we are to enter the presence of the Lord, let us remember we are entering the presence of a king—who is worthy of all our praise and honor.
- We should always enter His presence with “Joyful Noise.”
- In fact, worship is not about us, but about Him.
- Even though there is a personal therapeutic benefit to being in God’s presence, let us not make it the goal of our worship.
- Instead, let our worship be an expression of our sincere appreciation for what He has done, is doing, and will do in our lives.
- As it says in the book of Psalms, Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! (Psa 66:2 NIV)

31 **Praise Awaits in Zion**