



May 3, 2011 - Psalm 100:1

Hi everyone,

Today we begin Psalm 101. When we began Psalm 100, I encouraged you to read it and Psalm 101 together before beginning. Doing so myself caused me to see a theme in each one. So for the last five weeks in Psalm 100 we have been looking at the first theme of right ways for us to come before the Lord in worship. Today as we begin Psalm 101, we will explore the second theme of right ways for us to live and walk before the Lord in righteousness. As always, as we begin a new Psalm, I encourage you to continue to review the ones already memorized. I don't know about you, but I love having Truth stored up in my heart. Let's look at Psalm 101.

In the NASB Psalm 101:1 reads,

"I will sing of lovingkindness and justice. To Thee, O LORD, I will sing praises."

Remember how Psalm 100 began with a call to "shout" to the Lord. Well now, Psalm 101 begins with singing to Him. This Hebrew word for "**sing**" in verse 1 is "zamar" and it portrays the idea of making music. Just as we looked at the word "shout" in Psalm 100, let's consider this word "**sing**" in Psalm 101. What I mean is, maybe you don't have a beautiful voice or play an instrument with excellence, but when was the last time your life itself made music to the Lord? Is your life singing a melody of praise to Him?

I believe the first line of Psalm 101 gives insight into one way that can take place and it is way deeper than producing beautiful note sounds. First of all the writer says, "**I will sing of lovingkindness.**" Previously we looked at this word, but let me remind you again. The Hebrew word for "**lovingkindness**" is "cheched" and it means goodness, kindness and faithfulness. The writer of this Psalm is singing of "cheched" in his life. My life should definitely be singing of this, too. Not only has God been so good to me, but He has also convinced me of His goodness even when I cannot see it. I live with a conviction that God is good and that gives my life a reason to sing. And what about His kindness and faithfulness? The same is true of these.

Meditating on God's lovingkindness should compel us to "**sing**" of it in the way we live. We can make a melody of His lovingkindness as we relate to others. We can offer goodness, we can offer

kindness, we can offer faithfulness. Lovingkindness has been given to us so we can "**sing**" it out in the way we live.

When we understand that, I think we can also see why the writer of Psalm 101 says "**I will sing of lovingkindness and justice.**" The two definitely go together. See God is full of lovingkindness, but He pours it out through justice. The Hebrew word for "justice" in Psalm 101 is likened to deciding a case. God decided our case. He decided we were much too precious in His sight to condemn us so He reached into our lives with His goodness, kindness and faithfulness by putting the just price of our sin upon Himself. The writer of Psalm 101 desires his life to "**sing**" of the very things that have been poured out upon Him. He realizes He doesn't deserve the lovingkindness of God. He realizes God has graciously decided his case by paying the penalty Himself. So not only does he desire his life to sing of lovingkindness, but also justice. He, too, wants to reach into a broken world that doesn't deserve his love, kindness and faithfulness and pour it out. He wants his life to sing of the very things that have been poured out upon him.

What does this mean for us practically? Well I believe it means it is right for our lives to "**sing**" of both! See we can sit in a worship environment or ride in our car singing with the radio about how much the Lord loves us but to "**sing of justice**" takes our living to a whole different level. How is our life "**singing**" a sweet melody of the Lord's goodness, kindness and faithfulness when we encounter those that don't deserve them. When we realize we didn't deserve them either, maybe we will sing of both. We will be a musical instrument in this world making sure that the least of these are hearing the melody of God's lovingkindness and justice on their behalf. Is our life "**singing of lovingkindness and justice**" each day? Are we making a sweet melody of the Lord's goodness, kindness and faithfulness in the lives of the hurting and broken?

It is right for us to live before the Lord "**singing**" a song of His lovingkindness and justice!

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