

When Thanksgiving Becomes Thanksliving

I. Realize God's disgust for ingratitude

History of Israel

- Ex.14:12, rescued, yet accuse God falsely...
- Ex.15:23-25 - (v.1) sang His praise, forgot His deliverance
- Ex.16:1-3, rescued from Egyptian bondage, but long for good 'ole days in Egypt
- Ex.17:1-4, magnified problems, minimized disobedience
- Nu.11:1-10, 33, God sent fire. Why??

Modern times

- 1 Co.10¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
 - Murmur, grumble, express disapproval
 - Complaining keeps sorry company
 - Paul's link: ancient Israel–modern Corinth
 - Ph.2:14, Do all things without complaining and disputing.

I. Realize God's disgust for ingratitude

II. Remember God's
determination to save us

We owe God

- Gen.28²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on . . . ²² And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.
 - Jacob asked for bare necessities

We owe God

- Gen.32¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies . . .
 - Jacob praised God for overflowing abundance
 - Many go from rags to riches without a single thank you

Ten lepers, Luke 17:11-19

11-12:

- Village: lepers not allowed to enter; pitiful
- Stand far off: contagious
- Leprosy –
 - Disgusting, frightening, incurable
 - Public reactions: scorn, fear, pity
 - Separation / isolation . . . Outcasts
 - Awful waiting: fade, spread, or kill?
 - Misery loves company
 - Depended on charity for food . . .

Ten lepers, Luke 17:11-19

13:

- Lifted voices . . . Jesus, Master...
- Heard of Him / His power to heal
- With ordinary people, mercy is food, clothes...

Ten lepers, Luke 17:11-19

14:

- GO...to priest ...as if already cured. Test
- SHOW...Lv.14:2, health inspector
- SO...(leprosy gone; they are clean)
- KNOW...(faith turns to sight – cleansed)

Ten lepers, Luke 17:11-19

15-16:

- One is different: saw...healed...returned
...loud voice...glorified God
- Loud voices:
 - 13 – all lifted up voices to he healed
 - 15 – one with loud voice glorified
- Fell on face...Lord's feet...giving thanks
[over and over] ... loud voice ...
he (emphatic) is a Samaritan??
- Last man we would expect . . .

Ten lepers, Luke 17:11-19

17-18:

- Did Jesus cure only one of ten?
- Nine were absorbed in blessings; wasted no time in thanksgiving. Lk.13:26-27
 - **Ingratitude:** happy for the cure, but...
 - **Samaritan:** gratitude, rarer than faith.
 - Naaman, 2 K.5... (Lk.4:27)
 - Centurion, Mt.8
 - Syro-Phoenician, Mt.15
 - Samaritans: Lk.10; Jn.4.

Ten lepers, Luke 17:11-19

19:

- Your faith . . .
 - Cured disease
 - Saved from sin?
- All lepers wanted cure; asked; obeyed; healed... but ONE gave thanks
- Ac.2²³ ...Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God... Determined to save us... through His Son

I. Realize God's disgust for ingratitude

II. Remember God's determination to save

III. Required by God's
directions for us

Daniel gave thanks

Dan.6¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

- He faced problems, opposition, death penalty . . . and bad neighbors
- Would we risk lives to offer thanks...?
- Ac.5:41

Don't worry – give thanks

Ph.4⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God

- Many are quick to ask for help, but slow to give thanks

Gratitude and growth

Col.3¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful

- Context: work for spiritual growth (12-15)

Thanks for everything?

1 Th.5¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you

- Ep.5:20, thanks for all things?
- Eph.5:24, wife submits to husband in all things?
- Eph.6:21, make all things known to you (omniscient)?

Thanks for everything?

1 Th.5¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you

- 1 Th.5¹⁶ rejoice *always*
- Rejoice even in persecution, 2:14.
[Cf. Paul, 2 Co.12:9]
- “In” everything, not “for” everything.
 - In every circumstance, we can learn, grow, and remain thankful.
 - Job

“Thankfulness is the quickest path to joy.”

- “But why speak on thanksgiving now?”

“Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others” – Cicero.

1. Has ‘Thanksgiving’ passed?
2. How frequently does Lord bless us?
 - a. Spiritually?
 - b. Forgiveness?
 - c. Physically?
 - d. Families?
 - e. Spiritual family?

