

## Review

- Started a series last week called "In everything give thanks"
- Because of our struggles - it's easy to lose the priority of gratitude. Casualty of the battle

## Mandate

- Using this text - **1 Thess 5:18 (ESV)** *(18) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
- Saw last week the command to be thankful was not isolated in this verse alone, but consistently throughout Scripture

## Last week - hard to give thanks

- We are unobservant
- We are selfish
- We don't see why we should give thanks for the difficult/painful things

## Challenge

- Spend 10 minutes giving thanks (including the bad things)
- Prepare to testify on Sunday the 18th
- **Discuss** Allow people to share their observations / discoveries

## Message: When we give thanks

The blessings of gratitude

## Introduction

### Message today

- Lots of articles re: the benefits of gratitude
- Specifically want to look at the blessings when we give thanks to God

### Text

- Want to use a familiar story to illustrate the truth today
- **Luke 17:12-19 (ESV)** *(12) And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance (13) and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." (14) When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. (15) Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; (16) and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. (17) Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? (18) Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" (19) And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."*

### Couple of observations - unrelated to the message

- They cried out to Jesus - I trust you're lifting up your voice to the Lord re: the needs in your life today!
- He alone can make the difference
- See also their obedience - go show yourselves...
- Only the priest could declare them *"healed"*
- They weren't healed until they obeyed
- **Note:** v14 as they went they were healed!
- **Application:** Are you crying out?
- **Application:** Are you obeying

### Recognize (before we give thanks)

- Before we will give thanks, there are things we have to recognize
- See v14 *when he saw*

### The blessing

- We will never give thanks until we start seeing all that God has done/is doing for us
- In our story, the man "saw" he had been healed
- Part of the reason for the assignment I'm giving you: forcing you to be on the lookout for what God is doing!
- **James 1:17 (ESV)** *(17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*
- If there's good in your life, it's come from God

### **The source of that blessing**

- Again, should go without saying, but every blessing is from God
- The ability to earn money, the health in your body, etc.
- In 1674, Thomas Ken penned the words to the hymn we call the doxology
- In our passage, the man turned back - Jesus had healed him!

### **Our unworthiness to receive that blessing**

- See their cry - "have mercy on us" in v13
- We don't deserve anything from God but death
- We haven't earned these blessings - and once we realize that then we'll give thanks!
- We act like God owes us... he doesn't!

### **Respond (as we give thanks)**

#### **With an urgency/priority**

- In our story, the man immediately turned back
- Nothing was more important than giving thanks to God
- **Note:** He immediately began to give praise to God!
- This challenge: make thanksgiving a priority
- **Personal story:** I noticed the second day was the most difficult. Developing a new habit

#### **With humility**

- See him bowing low before the Lord v16 *he fell on his face*
- Ties back to last point - we don't deserve what he has done
- **Personal note:** The first day as I began to do this, I was overwhelmed and

humbled! Who am I that God should do these things for me!

### **With Thanksgiving**

- This is the point of these messages
- God is worthy of praise, and we are called to praise him
- The first question in the Westminster shorter catechism is "*What is the chief end of man*", and the answer "*The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever!*"
- **Psalm 66:1-4 (ESV)** (1) *To the choirmaster. A Song. A Psalm. Shout for joy to God, all the earth; (2) sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! (3) Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. (4) All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."* Selah
  - Shout
  - Sing
  - Say!

### **Results (after we give thanks)**

#### **I'm focused on "what's right" vs. "what's wrong"**

- We are so aware of everything that's wrong in our lives
- It's a temptation to complain - **Phili 2:14 (ESV)** (14) *Do all things without grumbling or questioning,*
- Again - ok to recognize the problems and pray about them - with thanksgiving!  
**Phili 4:6 (ESV)** (6) *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*
- Change of perspective when I see all that God is doing

#### **I'm able to see God more clearly**

- Revelation
- See His mercy, grace, blessings, power etc.
- **Note** from the passage - only the one understood the connection between faith and healing
- Revelation brings transformation
- Gratitude leads to revelation

#### **I'm better equipped to pray**

- I come in humility before the Lord - not as if he owes me anything
- I come in repentance before the Lord - having taken his grace for granted
- I come rejoicing before the Lord \***Psalm 100:4 (ESV)** *(4) Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!*
- I come in Faith - because I see that He is already working in my life
  - Look what the Lord has done!
  - it is no secret

## **Closing**

**Continue to give thanks!**

**Look for His revelation**

**Be transformed as a result**