

Giving thanks

Opening

Announce

- No service Wednesday
- Praise team practice Sunday - after service

Call to worship

Today is a day to give thanks!

- The focus today is on worship
- We will share the word
- We will partake of communion
- But our focus is on saying thank you to the Lord

Psalm 105

Psalm 105:3 (ESV) *(1) Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! (2) Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! (3) Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!*

Personal thanksgiving

- As I've practiced this gratitude I have been overwhelmed at God's goodness to me, and his faithfulness on my behalf
- Monday as I was spending time giving thanks, this scripture came to mind: **Lam 3:22-23 (ESV)** *(22) The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; (23) they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*
- My mother in law had this highlighted in her bible - a faithful prayer warrior whose prayers helped me find Christ
- I don't get it right all the time - but I am thankful that His love never ceases - that we never run out of his mercy
- And as I wait for his promises to be fulfilled - I know he is faithful to keep them

Instructions

- Through our time of worship - opportunity will be given
- I'd love everyone to share one thing!
- Doesn't have to be long, but I want this house to be filled with gratitude today

Message: Giving thanks

Review

- This is the third sermon in the series: Give thanks
- Based on **1 Thess 5:18 (ESV)** *(18) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Week 1: It's hard

- We're called to give thanks for everything
- We struggle to do that because we're unobservant and selfish
- Challenged you to practice thanksgiving

Weeks: When we give thanks

- Used the story of the 10 lepers
- Before we give thanks (Recognize)
- What he's done
- That I don't deserve it
- As we give thanks (Respond)
- Make it a priority
- Be humble
- Sing, shout say
- After we give thanks
- Changes my perspective - I see what's right
- New revelation of God
- Better equipped to pray

Background

Text

- **Psalms 107:1-99 (ESV)** ⁽¹⁾ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his

steadfast love endures forever! *

- **Note:** Same as our promise!

A little history

Comes from God's revelation of himself to Moses

- Moses in anger breaks the 10 commandments when he sees the people run amok
- God is ready to destroy them, but Moses intercedes for them
- Moses asks God's presence to continue with them
- He promises to do so
- Moses asks **Ex 33:18-20 (ESV)** (18) *Moses said, "Please show me your glory." (19) And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. (20) But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."*
- God instructs him to hide in the rock
- God passes by him proclaiming his name: **Ex 34:6-7a (ESV)** (6) *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, (7) keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...*
- Point: God has declared himself to be...
- Merciful
- Gracious
- Slow to anger
- Abounding in love and faithfulness
- Forgiving of sin!
- Praise the Lord!

David incorporates it

- David desires God's presence with him as king
- The ark was in the tent of meeting thru 40 years in the desert
- Placed in Shiloh
- Stolen by the Philistines - but God inflicted on them rats and hemorrhoids
- David's first attempt to bring the ark met with disaster - Uzzah reaches out to steady the ark - and is struck dead
- David finally succeeds in bringing it back to Jerusalem in 1st Chronicles 15
- As he celebrates the Lord's presence among them, he brings the psalm of

praise recorded in 1 Chron 16 (also Psalm 105). We read the opening verses in our call to worship

- He concludes with **1 Chron 16:34 (ESV)** *(34) Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!
- This phrase then becomes incorporated into the worship of the Lord from generation to generation

Usage in this Psalm

- Historical psalm - reflecting on God's goodness in the past
- Opens with our text
- Repeats the phrase *Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!* four times (v8, 15, 21, 31)
- Taking it as a basis for our thanksgiving this communion Sunday

He is Good!

Only God is good

- **Personal:** this gratitude assignment has allowed me to see more clearly God's goodness
- **Ask:** How many can raise a hand w/o reservation and declare God is good?
- There is no other one who is Good!
- See Jesus interaction with the rich young ruler when he called Jesus *Good teacher* in **Luke 18:19 (ESV)** (19) *And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.*
- There is nothing evil, selfish, "human" in God's goodness
- In fact the very word good is derived from God - to be good is to be like God!

He is always good

- There is nothing but good in God - there is no evil
- This is true all the time
- I can trust in his goodness - even when it doesn't feel good!

We don't deserve it!

- Coupled with a fresh revelation of God's goodness has come a new awareness of how little I deserve it!
- He is good - I am not
- The more I see of him, his faithfulness - the more I realize how undeserving and

unrighteous I am

- Ultimate proof of his goodness - is the provision of Calvary we come here to celebrate today!

My response?

- I can refuse to believe it
- I can refuse to accept it until I'm worthy of it
- Or I can *Give thanks to the Lord for He is good*

His love endures forever

He chose to love us

- God moved first!
- Before we'd ever done anything - God made a choice to love us!
- See Rom 9!

He demonstrated that love for us

- As we come to the Lord's table today - we are reminded of the love God has for us
- If you ever doubt that God loves you - see Calvary
- Paul reminds us **Rom 5:8 (ESV)** (8) *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Nothing can separate me from that love

- Times when we're struggling we wonder if somehow God has given up on us
- Calvary shows that God knew everything about you - and still sent his Son to die in your place
- **Rom 8:38-39 (ESV)** (38) *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

My response?

- I can refuse to believe His love
- Try to earn / deserve his love
- Give thanks for His love
- And love him in return **1 John 4:19 (ESV)** (19) *We love because he first loved us.*

Closing

30 Day challenge

We've done this for a couple of weeks - I challenge you to continue to devote 10 minutes per day to being grateful

Lifestyle

Make *Thanksgiving* your lifestyle

Communion

1 Cor 11:23-26 (ESV) (23) *For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*