

A Message About Thanksgiving

Luke 17:11-19,

Acts 16:16-25,

Psalms 100,

Summery:

- 1. Don't forget to thank God**
- 2. Sometimes it's a sacrifice**
- 3. Make it a lifestyle**

Analyzing data from over 3.7 million reviews for 13 400 hotels in 70 countries, Reward-Expert has set out to answer where the grumpiest and happiest travelers in the world come from.

Grumpiest:

- 1. Spain**
- 2. Ireland**
- 3. Iceland**
- 4. Italy**

Happiest:

- 1. Russia**
- 2. Serbia**
- 3. Lebanon**
- 4. Australia – USA gets a top 10**

A study done by UCLA Neuroscience dept found out that the #1 choice that allowed people to live happy was to have a grateful / thankful attitude.

As we are continually thanking it releases 2 'happy chemicals' (Serotonin & Dopamine) into our brains.

As a matter of interest that same study found that:

- 1. labelling negative feelings,**
- 2. making decisions when faced with choices,**
- 3. helping others and**
- 4. human touch also made people happier and able to go through hardship.**

In Thanksgiving:

1. Don't forget to thank God

It's easy to ask for things when we have needs but what do we teach our kids when they receive something – Say thank you.

Why?

The need has been met and we're happy for a (short) while, until the next crisis happens.

Luke 17: 11-19 Tells the story of 10 Lepers ...***On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee.***

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."

Leprosy is a contagious skin disease.

Leviticus (13:45,46) says, 'the the leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

Many believed that Leprosy was a punishment from God as it was incurable at that time.

If you think back over the last year, what's the greatest thing God has done in your life? (Kept me from getting Leprosy?)

Job – moved somewhere, new baby, married?

Today is a good day to thank God for what He has done.

Ps 100: 4,5 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

The Message says, "Enter with the password "Thank you".

2. Sometimes giving thanks is a sacrifice.

You may not have your healing, still be financially tight, have loads of pressure.

It's easy to focus on what we need next, what we don't have rather than focus on what we do have.

Acts 16: tells us how Paul and his companions were on a mission trip, they are forbidden by God to go into NE Turkey area around Istanbul so head west towards the coast, later Paul has a vision of a man from Macedonia (Greece) who is asking them to come and help them, they preach and there's a salvation, a wealthy lady called Lydia, she invites them to stay with her family and things are really looking up except for there's this one slave girl who keeps bothering them, then things really get bad ...

Acts 16: 16 *Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.*

17 *She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."*

18 *She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.*

19 *When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.*

20 *They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar*

21 *by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."*

22 *The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.*

23 *After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.*

24 *When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.*

25 *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*

26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

What amazing results from giving thanks!

Easiest Question; Why God did you let us get beaten???

It's usually really hard to understand why things happen sometimes, but our attitude through them is vital to the outcome.

3. Make it a lifestyle, not just a day.

1 Thess 5:16-18 - 16 Rejoice always,

17 pray continually,

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

The word "All," comes from the Greek root word 'Pas' which means everything.

Matt Redman's song (copyright):

Blessed Be Your name, When I'm found in the desert place, Though I walk through the wilderness, Blessed Be Your name.

Blessed be Your name, On the road marked with suffering, Though there's pain in the offering, Blessed be Your name.

When we look at the Israelites, they started complaining from the very first obstacle they encountered – Red Sea.

"Why did you bring us to die in the desert, were there not enough graves in Egypt, Didn't we tell you to leave us alone to be slaves?" Ex 14.

Poor Moses, he was a man of great patience.

However, no sooner had they got through that and witnessed a miracle – through the Red Sea / soldiers drowning in the red sea then three days later in the desert they couldn't find good water to drink – moan again.

Col 2: 6-7 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

My counsel for you is simple and straightforward:

Just go ahead with what you've been given.

You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him.

We are supposed to be deeply rooted in him.

We are supposed to be well constructed upon him.

We are supposed to know our way around the faith.

Now do what you've been taught.

School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

How:

1. Watch the words you say.

Eph 5:4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

2. Show kindness to others

*Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. /
Heb 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

3. Give generously, often (not only money)

*2 Cor 9:11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every
way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*

4. Share your story (faith)

*1 Pet 3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always
being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a
reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness
and respect,*

Let's pray and Give thanks

Three Main Points Re-Stated:

1. Don't forget to thank God
2. Sometimes giving thanks is a sacrifice.
3. Make it a lifestyle, not just a day.