

Requirements Of Being Thankful

Sunday AM 11/21/21

Introduction:

Yes, it is that time of year again where we hear and study about being thankful. We see a lot of people who have trouble with being thankful while others feel blessed. Why is a nation of such abundance do we have some who can't think of one thing to be happy about? This lesson will deal with three things required in order to be thankful.

I) Recognition

A) Being aware – a lot of people are too busy to be aware.

1. I admit to being a “tunnel driver” where I keep my eyes on the road at all times.
 - a. Regena will point out certain things (a house, flowers, landscape, etc.) of which I am oblivious.
 - b. Admittedly there is balance between keeping your eyes on the road and observing what is around you.
2. In our lives we can be like the foolish farmer in **Luke 12**.
 - a. Busy at tearing down “our barns” and “building bigger ones” Our “barns” may be different things but we have them.

Luke 12:17 *"And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 "So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.*

- b. Being busy can be good but not if it causes us to neglect more important things.

Luke 12:19 *'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease;*

eat, drink, and be merry." 20 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

- c. This man was unaware of his soul- temporary nature of this life and what will happen afterward. Remember the song "As The Life of A Flower"

B) Things people may be unaware of:

1. God, His existence, His all seeing eye, His great power.

Psalms 14:1 <<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.>> *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the LORD? 5 There they are in great fear, For God is with the generation of the righteous. 6 You shame the counsel of the poor, But the LORD is his refuge. 7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.*

2. Of one's sins and need for forgiveness. To some the whole idea of sinning and needing forgiveness is repugnant.

- a. ***Psalm 14.3*** *They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.*

- b. In New Testament, ***Romans 3:23*** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

3. Of God's love for us. There is often a time when a child realizes

the sacrifices and love they received from their parents. Time, money, energy, etc. There should be a time when we come to a further understanding and awareness of God's love for us.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

II) Recognition of Blessings

A) What are blessings?

1. Get different answers from different people.
2. Definition would read – good things we have received from God, to be favored.
3. In the Beatitudes we see where the blessings are connected with certain characteristics which leads to spiritual rewards. ***Matthew 5.3-10.***
4. Blessings are not always comfortable or easy to accept.

Luke 1:39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

5. Our blessings will not always be easy ones.

Lyrics to "Blessings"

We pray for blessings
We pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity

We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
All the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough
All the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not our home

What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are your mercies in disguise

B) Blessings from challenges (The Butterfly and the cocoon)

1. The people we have the opportunity to help, keep in mind their need for help may not come at a convenient time.

Acts 20:34 "Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to

give than to receive."

2. People you get to share time with – family, friends, church family.
3. The challenge of getting out of sin, not easy to repent, to turn from sin.
4. The challenge of learning to walk- frustrating, falling down, smart bumps.
 - a. Walking as children of God.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; **10** that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Ephesians 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

- b. To watch your step, keep out of the cow patties, stay on the right course.
5. The challenge of thinking of others first.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

III) The Source of our Blessings

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

A) God has blessed us greatly.

1. Hard to count our blessings because there are so many.
 - a. How would you rank your top ten? Top 20? 30? Etc.
2. Blessings come in disguises.

2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. **8** Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. **9** And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

B) God has blessed us with:

1. His Son our Savior -His sacrifice, His example
2. The Gospel of Christ- ***Romans 1.16***
3. His patience

Ephesians 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- **19** to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

4. The Kingdom which shall never be destroyed, ***Daniel 2.44.***
5. The avenue of prayer
6. Godly families- spouses, children, grandparents, siblings, etc.

7. Our church family.

Conclusion:

Let us never forget how blessed we are.