

# Sermon Notes

## A Life of Thanks - Luke 17:11-19

### November 22, 2020

#### I. Introduction

- a. study of happiest and grumpiest travelers...  
**Grumpy:** Spain, Ireland, Iceland, Italy  
**Happy:** Russia, Serbia, Lebanon, Australia...
- b. UCLA Neuroscience dept... *How to Live Happy*...
  1. Be **thankful**
  2. **Identify** negative feelings
  3. Make **decisions** when given a choice
  4. **Help** others
  5. Human **touch**
- c. Christmas joy coming a little early to AL this year... new series, *Believe*... focus on how a **life of thanks** can help us to **live happy**, not just *be happy*... **pray**...

#### II. A Life of Thanks

- a. hard to celebrate Thanksgiving when you're being encouraged not to celebrate Thanksgiving... celebrate anyway with loved ones...
- b. virtual meal, virtual crafts, virtual Macy's parade, virtual prayer, virtual... how do you live a **life of thanks** and **live happy** when things around you are nuts...
- c. **Don't Forget to Thank God**  
most critical part of living happy is a continuous attitude of thanks to God...  
1Chron 16... "give **thanks** to the Lord... proclaim His deeds... He is good..."  
1Chron 22:30... "every morning and evening... give **thanks** and praise to God..."  
Psa 28:7... "my heart celebrates, and I give **thanks** to the Lord with song..."  
Psa 138:4... "all will give You **thanks** when they hear what You promised..."  
1Cor 15:57... "**thanks** be to God who gives us the victory thru Jesus Christ..."  
Eph 1:16... "I never stop giving **thanks** for you as I remember you in prayer..."  
Col 3:17... "whatever you do... in word or deed... give **thanks** to God..."  
1Thess 5:18... "give **thanks** in everything... this is God's will for you..."
- d. easier to give thanks when you focus on eternal, not temporary...  
2Cor 4:8-18... "afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, knocked down... for your benefit... as grace extends... causes thanksgiving to increase... present troubles are small... produce glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever... don't look at troubles we see now, but fix gaze on things not seen, which will last forever..."
- e. being thankful addresses our **long-term needs**, not just short-term... cleansing was short-term... long-term was salvation and being made whole...  
Luke 17:11-14... "ten lepers met Him... *Jesus, have mercy on us... go, show yourselves to the priests...* as they went, they were **cleansed**..."  
**katharizo**... *make clean; a leper, to cleanse by curing; purify in Levitical sense...*  
Luke 17:15-19... "one saw he was **healed**, returned, and with a loud voice gave glory to God, thanking Him... *were not 10 cleansed, where are the others, get up, go your way, your faith has made you whole* (heal, save, make well)..."  
**iaomai/sozo**... *to make whole; make well, heal, restore to health; eternal salvation...*

#### f. **Not Always Easy**

might think I'm crazy for telling you to give thanks... especially with all the craziness in our world... didn't say it was easy... giving thanks may be more important for you and your family now than it's ever been...

#### **God is close to the Brokenhearted**

Psa 34:18... "God is near to brokenhearted... saves those crushed in spirit..."  
Isa 57:15... "I live with the oppressed... I revive the spirit of the lowly..."  
Matt 11:28-30... "come to me all who are weary and burdened... I give rest..."

#### **Thanks/Praise is often a Sacrifice**

Psa 116:17... "I will offer you a **sacrifice** of thanksgiving..."  
Acts 16:16-34... "flogged, prison, stocks... sang praises... released... saved..."  
Heb 13:15... "offer **sacrifice** of praise to God... fruit of lips giving thanks..."  
**sacrifice**... *give up something for something else more important...*

#### **A Thankful Heart prepares the Way**

2Sam 22... "praised the Lord... saved from my enemies... I will give thanks..."  
2Chron 20... "singing, *give thanks to the Lord*... rejoiced over enemies..."  
Psa 50... "giving thanks is sacrifice that honors Me... reveal your **salvation**..."  
**yeshu'a**... *deliverance, salvation, rescue, safety, welfare, prosperity, victory...*

#### **Joy is Coming**

Job 8:21... "He will fill your mouth with laughter... and lips with joy..."  
Psa 30:5... "His favor for life... sorrow during night... joy comes in morning..."  
Heb 12:2... "for the joy that lay before Him... He endured the cross..."

- g. God knows the power of thanksgiving... wants us to use that power...  
Psa 18... "overtake, free from enemies... give thanks for great **victory**..."  
Psa 118:21... "I will give thanks... because you have become my **salvation**..."  
Dan 2:23... "I offer thanks... because you have given **wisdom** and power..."  
John 6:8-23... "after giving thanks... people **had as much** as they wanted..."  
John 11:38-44... "*Father, I thank you... Lazarus, come out... dead was raised*..."  
Rom 7:24-25... "who will **rescue** me from sin... thanks to God, thru Jesus..."  
Phil 4:4-9... "rejoice always... with thanksgiving... **peace** will be with you..."  
Rev 11:17... "give thanks... You have taken great **power**... begun to reign..."
- h. **Lifestyle, not a Day**  
living happy is about a lifestyle... not just celebrating a Holiday... Jews struggled with murmuring and complaining... wandered for 40 years...  
Exo 14-16... "murmur, complain... rejoice, give thanks... murmur, complain..."  
Num 14... "all Israelites complained... *how long must I endure complaining... your corpses shall fall in the wilderness... because you have complained*..."  
Job 35:13-14... "God does not listen to empty cries... how much less when you complain that you do not see Him... and are waiting for Him..."  
1Cor 10:10-11... "don't complain as they did... written as warnings for us..."
- i. what advice would help you live happy and make thanks a lifestyle... **pray**...  
Col 2:6-7 **MSG**... "my counsel is simple... go with what you've been given... you received Christ, now **live** Him... you're deeply rooted in Him... know your way around the faith... now do what you've been taught... school's out... quit studying and start living it... and let your living spill over into thanksgiving..."  
2Cor 9:11... "you will be enriched in every way... which produces thanks..."  
Eph 5:4... "obscene, foolish talk not suitable... but rather giving thanks..."

## Thank Your Way to Peace

Phil 4:6-9... *don't worry... but with prayer and thanksgiving...*

You probably have read this verse before... but would you like to know how to apply it in your everyday life? Let me give you an illustration that may help.

Let's say you are up for a promotion in your company... and you will know by tomorrow whether you get it or not. You want the promotion badly because it means more income for your family. So, you lie in bed at night tossing and turning. You pray, *Father, please take away all my worries about this promotion. Give me faith.* But, an hour later... you are more worried than ever. It seems like God is not answering your prayer.

How come? Because you are not doing it God's way. Pray like this instead... *Father, I give all my worries about this promotion to You. I know you care for me and that You love me.* The Bible tells us to cast all our cares upon the Lord because He cares for us. **1Pet 5:7**. Then, say... *Father, I would like to have this promotion.* It's okay to ask Him for that. Now, here comes the most powerful part... thanksgiving. Finish off your prayer with thanks. Thank God for His faithfulness even before you receive your answer.

Say something like this... *Father, whether I get the promotion or not... I thank You that You will always provide for my family with more than enough. You who feed the birds of the air and clothe the lilies of the field will take care of us. So, I am not going to worry about this promotion. You are the source of all my blessings.* **Matt 6:30** and **Phil 4:19**.

When you pray like this... all of a sudden you are no longer held hostage by the promotion (or whatever other situation you are praying for). This is **thank-you therapy!!**

The more you know God's Word, the more you can thank Him. The more you thank Him, the more His peace fills your heart. And, most often... before you know it... its morning. You don't even remember falling asleep. The peace of God reigns like that. Whatever your concern is... bring it to the Father in prayer and thanksgiving and He will bring you peace beyond understanding.

**Pastor Joseph Prince**

## Sermon Study

*A Life of Thanks* - **Luke 17:11-19** - November 22, 2020

1. In general, do you consider yourself a **happy or unhappy** person? How would others describe you? Are you living a **happy life**?
2. What is one **critical part** of living happy? Read **1Chron 22:30... Psa 138:4... 1Cor 15:57... Col 3:17**. Are you good at that?
3. Read **2Cor 4:8-18**. Why is it easier to be thankful when you **focus** on the **eternal** and not the temporary? Give an example.
4. Read **Luke 17:11-19**. Likely, what **extra blessing** did the leper who returned to **thank Jesus** receive (*iaomai/sozo*)? Was it worth it?
5. Is being thankful **easy or difficult**? Why? Give some **reasons** why giving thanks is so important? Read **Psa 34:18** and **Isa 57:15... Psa 116:17** and **Heb 13:15**. **2Chron 20** and **Psa 50**. **Psa 30:5** and **Heb 12:2**. Which of those reasons helps you the most?
6. What **power** is there in thanksgiving? Read **Psa 18... Psa 118:21... Dan 2:23... John 6:8-23... John 11:38-44... Rom 7:24-25... Phil 4:4-9... Rev 11:17**. Which of those do you **need** right now?
7. Is complaining a **good idea**? Read **Exo 14-16... Num 14... Job 35:13-14... 1Cor 10:10-11**. What **advice** could you take from this message to make thanks a **lifestyle**. Read **Col 2:6-7 MSG**.

Please read entire passages to get full context. See sermon notes for more info.