

SERMON SERIES: THANKS/GIVING

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Sermon Title

“Thanks”

Introduction

This week we started a short series for the Thanksgiving season: THANKS/GIVING. For these two weeks, we are going to be diving into the two words that make up Thanksgiving, and see what God has to say about each of them when it comes to our walk with Him. To get started this week, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- What is your most treasured Thanksgiving tradition or story? Why does that stand out to you?

Seek the Word

- Read Luke 17:11-19 aloud, then discuss.
 - What stands out to you about the response of the one leper who returned to thank Jesus? Why do you think the others did not return?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 aloud, then discuss.
 - This verse instructs us to give thanks in all circumstances. What are some circumstances that you have gone through (or are currently going through) that you find it hard to give thanks to God in? What would it look like to practically give thanks in all circumstances?
- Read Colossians 3:17 aloud, then discuss.
 - What does it mean to do everything in the name of the Lord? How does our giving thanks to God play into that?

Go Deeper

Reflect on a time when you received a blessing but failed to express gratitude. What was the reason that stopped you from doing so? How did that experience affect your relationship with God and/or the others in that situation?

Talk About It

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you grade your habit of gratitude: 1 being hardly ever grateful and 10 being always giving thanks and showing gratitude. How can you improve on showing gratitude being a habit in your life?
- What is something that you are currently experiencing or going through that can be transformed by adopting a posture of continual thanks and gratitude?
- Do you see your relationship as God right now more transactional or transformational? Why is that? What do you think would help you experience the transformational grace of God even more fully?

Wrap Up

Reminder: As we step into the Thanksgiving week and look ahead to Christmas, we often think about things that we are thankful for. Relationships, our jobs, our living situation, etc. But as much as those things are a blessing to our lives, we also have to adopt a habit of showing gratitude and thanks to God in *all* things. His grace transforms our lives and our hearts to be that of a people living out thanks and gratitude. When we live out our faith with a grateful heart and a grateful spirit, we allow for that transformative love to affect not only our lives, but the lives of those around us.

Challenge: Think through your pocketful of “IOU A TY” notes. Who in your life is deserving of a thank-you that you have not just given them yet. Find a time this week to identify a few of those people and reach out to them, either through a text, phone call, or face to face, and express that gratitude that you feel for them.

Prayer: Close your time as a group by inviting each person to share one thing that they are thankful for. Then, pray together, thanking God for His blessings and asking for a heart that continually seeks to express gratitude in all circumstances.