

Rhythms: Gratitude

The spiritual movement from resentment to gratitude has a profound impact on our relationships with God, others and ourselves.

Text – John 11:33-48

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” 40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, 46 but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. 48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

Teaching

Gratitude and “_____”.

Gratitude doesn't try to _____ loss or _____.

Gratitude demonstrates what is most true: In all things, _____.

Gratitude and _____.

Gratitude and “_____”.

Gratitude and _____.

Deeper Dive

Last week we talked about resentment. We ended by talking about living lives of forgiveness. The movement from resentment to forgiveness is profound, but not complete. The miracle of a God who works in all things is that in the midst of the very things that cause us resentment, we can find reasons to be thankful.

This takes a servant's heart, not an entitled one.

This also takes an active curiosity as we seek to discern where God is working in all the areas and situations in our life.

Reflection & Discussion

- What is the difference between giving thanks **IN** all things and **FOR** all things?
- Where in your life do you struggle with entitlement, a view from above? (For reference, we discussed entitlement as 1. I deserve to have what I think I should have, 2. understand what is going on, and 3. give approval/disapproval to each circumstance in my life.)
- Take one of your resentments that you struggle with. How can you move, in the midst of this exact situation, from resentment to gratitude? How has he heard your greater and deeper needs even in this situation?