

Grateful In All Circumstances
Message 03 of the series "Grateful"

"It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the Most High. It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening...." Psalm 92:1-2 (NLT)

1. It is good to give thanks to the LORD in good times.

"Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation." Psalm 100:2-5 (NLT)

a. If we're grateful that God has been good to us, we need to tell Him.

As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you." Luke 17:12-19 (NLT)

b. If we're grateful that God has been good to us, we need to tell others.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies." Psalm 107:1-2 (NLT)

c. If we're grateful that God has been good to us, we need to share.

"Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal." 2 Corinthians 8:14 (NLT)

2. It is good to give thanks to the LORD in hard times.

"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)

Note: God wants us to be grateful in all circumstances, NOT for all circumstances.

Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The LORD gave me what I had, and the LORD has taken it away. Praise the name of the LORD!" ...His wife said to him, "Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die." But Job replied, "You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?" So in all this, Job said nothing wrong. Job 1:20-22, 2:9-10 (NLT)

Note: God wants us to love Him for who He is, NOT just for what He gives us.

"You've come looking for me not because you saw God in my actions but because I fed you, filled your stomachs—and for free." John 6:26 (MSG)

"Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!" Habakkuk 3:17-19 (NLT)

a. We can be grateful that God will somehow use painful experiences for our good.

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28 (NLT)

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good...." Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)

b. We can be grateful that God will never leave us or forsake us.

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

"In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!" Psalm 34:6-8 (NLT)

c. We can be grateful that God is bigger than any problem we will face.

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."
John 16:33 (NLT)

"We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us." 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (NLT)

d. We can be grateful that our troubles in this world won't last long.

"For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."
2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT)

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:3-5 (NLT)

John Schmidt 11-25-18 john@centeringlives.com

Charles Dickens once said that we are somewhat mixed up here in America. Instead of having just one day set aside for Thanksgiving Day each year, he said, we should have 364. "Use that one day just for complaining and griping," he said. "Use the other 364 days to thank God for the many blessings He has showered upon you."

**"If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share."
~W. Clement Stone~**

Connect Group Discussion Questions

1. Share with your group one thing you enjoyed this Thanksgiving (seeing an old friend, deep fried Turkey, a visit to Grandma's house, etc.). Ask someone in your group to write these things down on a gratitude list.
2. Share one blessing you have received from the Lord this past year. Add these items to your gratitude list.
3. Share one trial, disappointment, or setback you've experienced this past year. What do you think God taught you through hardship? Add any lessons gleaned to your gratitude list.
4. Read John 14: 1-3 and 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. What excites you most when you think about heaven? Add these items to your gratitude list.
5. Read Luke 17:12-19. Why do you think Luke recorded this story? Who can you most identify with in this story? (the 10 lepers who urgently needed God's help, the leper who was overcome with gratitude, the other nine who forgot to say "thank you", or Jesus who was amazed by the lack of gratitude He received)

6. Spend some time as a group thanking God for each of the items on your gratitude list.
7. Bonus question: Read Habakkuk 3:17-19 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18. How do we get to the place where we can say “thank you” in ALL circumstances?