

Intro

~ We've all seen difficulty this year and also recently politically and if we're not careful it can steal thankfulness

~ To give thanks means = to be grateful

Psalms on thankfulness

Ps 100:4 be thankful unto him and bless his name

Ps 18:49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD

Ps 30:4 Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness

Ps 30:12 O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

Ps 35:18 I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people

Ps 75:1 Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks

Ps 79:13 So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

Ps 92:1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

Ps 97:12 Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

~ To give thanks is the will of God

~ I'm going to preach to myself this sermon and maybe it will bless you

Thankfulness Combats

1 Criticizing

2 Complaining

3 Complacency

Outline

1 Criticizing

~ Lk 18:9-14

~ Criticism has to do with self-righteousness

~ He criticized the publican

~ Find fault with the publican

~ The Pharisee exalted self above the publican

~ the expression of disapproval of someone or something based on perceived faults or mistakes.

~ We're prone to criticism when we're not filled with the Holy Spirit & thankfulness

~ The disciples complained and criticized about the people who rejected Jesus and wanted to call fire down on them

~ Before we criticize or complain we should pray

~ Prayer would change the way we think about people

~ Paul prayed and gave thanks for the church and people he wrote to

~ Instead of criticizing encourage

~ Giving thanks combats criticism by thanking God instead of finding fault with or disapproving because of view that might be right or wrong

2 Complaining

~ To express grief, pain, or discontent,

~ To make a formal accusation or charge

~ express dissatisfaction or annoyance about a state of affairs or an event.

~ To complain is to bring a charge against

~ While were not lawyers we're all good at bringing charges against people, places and things

Adam and Eve were in a perfect place (the Garden of Eden) and they listened to the serpent complain about God's provision

~ Num 11:1-9 Israel complained about their circumstances to each other and to Moses

~ They leave miraculously Egypt and yet when they didn't like their circumstances, food and lack of water they complained and wished they were back in Egypt as slaves

~ They should have taken their complaint to God about their situation

- ~ When Moses was frustrated with the people's complaining he took his complaint to the Lord
- ~ God was displeased with their complaining so much that the Lord brought fire from heaven
- ~ David poured out his complaint to the Lord (Ps 55:1,2; Ps 102 the title; 142:2)
- ~ It's human nature to complain and find fault with anything and everything, even good things
- ~ While the things we can find to complain about may be lacking in and of themselves we must be careful that we don't let complaining take the place of rejoicing, praying and thanking God
- ~ Giving thanks combats complaining by thanking God instead of rolling our eyes, speak negatively about a person or situations

3 Complacency

- ~ Complacency – Usually unaware or ununiformed self-satisfaction
- ~ My boss is big on safety... so when it comes safety complacency can be dangerous
- ~ Not taking advantage of the opportunities the Lord gives us
- ~ Complacency attacks our urgency and fervency
- ~ We were watching a show that showed a couple giving their wedding vows and the groom said he would cherish each day and never take a day with his wife for granted
- ~ That's the essence of fighting complacency – never taking anything for granted
- ~ Complacency settles in a team that has won and thinks they'll just win again without putting in practice
- ~ Complacency settles in when we've done a particular task many times over.....driving a car, going to work, going to the store, going to the doctor, going to church – we can take all these things for granted as if they'll always be there
- ~ Complacency brings us into a rut
- ~ Giving thanks combats complacency by not taking for granted our blessing and privileges will always be there

Conclusion

- ~ We we're singing worship songs Wednesday night. Greg was leading the music and it was really good and I sensed the Lord telling me to really appreciate this moment because you may not always have it
- ~ We have a good church. We're not perfect. You don't have a perfect pastor, building, programs but we have what we have and if we don't see the privilege and blessing it is we will be familiar, take for granted, criticize, and complain about what we have
- ~ Barnes said of 1 Thess 5:16-18 the model is for a church that is rejoicing, praying and thankful
- ~ Come to church on time, come ready, come with an expectation that God will minister to you today
- ~ If we just show and up and it's "yeah whatever" then how do we expect the Lord to minister and transform us
- ~ Come hungry, expecting (even if the preacher isn't the best) come hungry
- ~ To the hungry every bitter thing is sweet (Prov 27:7)
- ~ Bolivia story when it was a wacky service yet because I was hungry I was ministered to
- ~ To give thanks is to combat complacency by not taking things for granted that are blessings