

# Scripture

**Luke 17:11-19**

**Look for our event!**



# Gratitude

“Character Counts” - Week Seven

2/21/2021

# **I. Gratitude is Thanksgiving for All We have Received**

## **Romans 1:21 -**

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

# **I. Gratitude is Thanksgiving for All We have Received**

Ingratitude and forgetfulness are ultimately moral rather than mental; they are the direct expression of sin. No culture has nourished such tendencies as consistently as ours. We pride ourselves on being autonomous, self-created, and freestanding. A modern world with no need of God produces modern people with no sense of gratitude.

**~Os Guinness, The Call, 206-207**

# **I. Gratitude is Thanksgiving for All We have Received**

**I Corinthians 4:7 -**

What do you have that you did not receive?

# **I. Gratitude is Thanksgiving for All We have Received**

**James 1:16-18 -**

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

# **I. Gratitude is Thanksgiving for All We have Received**

**Acts 17:35 -**

He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath  
and everything.

# **I. Gratitude is Thanksgiving for All We have Received**

Gratitude is the ability to experience life as a gift. It opens us up to wonder, delight, and humility. It makes our hearts generous. It liberates us from the prison of self-preoccupation.

**~John Ortberg, When the Game Is Over,  
It All Goes Back in the Box, 149**



## **II. Gratitude Grows from Being Rich Toward God**



## **Luke 12:16-21 -**

And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

## **Luke 7:36-38 -**

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

## **II. Gratitude Grows from Being Rich Toward God**

**Ephesians 1:3 -**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

## **II. Gratitude Grows from Being Rich Toward God**

**Colossians 2:6-7 -**

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

# **III. Gratitude Flows in Outward Expressions**

## **A. Gratitude Counts God's Blessings**

**II Corinthians 9:15 -**

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Gratitude toward God is the corollary of faith in God. When I have faith, I affirm explicitly that I am a recipient of God's favors, and implicitly I recognize and affirm God as the giver. When I am grateful, I recognize and honor God explicitly as the giver, and I implicitly recognize and affirm myself as a recipient of God's gifts. In a way, faith and gratitude are two sides of the same coin. At the same time, there is a certain progression from faith to gratitude. Faith receives God's gifts as gifts; gratitude receives them well.

**~Miroslav Volf, Free of Charge, 46**

# **III. Gratitude Flows in Outward Expressions**

## **B. Gratitude Commends Others As Blessings**



## **Philippians 4:14-18 -**

It was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

# **III. Gratitude Flows in Outward Expressions**

## **C. Gratitude Delights in the Small Things**

“I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.”

**~G.K. Chesterton**