

GIVE THANKS #3 – NO COMPARISONS

11/28/2021

Psalms 16; Exodus 20; Romans 13

Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

SLIDE 2 – GIVE THANKS – LEAVE COMPARISON BEHIND

- Cultivating thanksgiving/being thankful comes from a place of faith
- Intentional Choices vs. Surfing our Feelings
- Don't compare self to others – if you do this, your life will ALWAYS suck
 - **No good is ever enough; what I have never measures up**

SLIDE 3 – GET OFF THE (HEDONIC) TREADMILL

- **“THE GRATITUDE EXPERIMENT”** – Hedonic treadmill – phenomena describing how are real/perceived level of happiness & enjoyment of life returns to an equilibrium/baseline, no matter what awesomeness we've experienced →
 - Win lottery, get a raise at work, accomplish a goal → back to baseline
 - Express gratitude – intentionally & often – get off the Hedonic treadmill
 - Key element of cultivating thanksgiving, better sense of wellbeing

SLIDE 4 – PSALM 16:5,6

SLIDE 5 – YOU ALONE – PORTION – CUP – INHERITANCE

- David – no matter what other circumstances; there is nothing & there is no one else that satisfies, that is enough, that is worth pursuing – the Lord God, YHWH
- **YOU ALONE** – my portion, my cup, the One who secures my lot
 - Apportioned boundary lines of family inheritance – divided by Torah w/in the families (tribes, clans, families, birth order, etc...)
- David – a Hebrew from the tribe of Judah; 'pre-determined' life outcomes; sons following fathers for generations; financial security & station – set
 - Anointed by God to be King, ancestor of the Messiah, the Christ
 - Above all others, above all else → David recognizes God is the prize
- **PORTION** – what a person is allotted by another – usually inheritance
- **CUP** – symbol for provision (lodging, eat/drink, etc...) DITTO
- **MAKE LOT SECURE** – decisions (oft made by rolling lots/dice) – secure
- **PLEASANT BOUNDARY LINES** – I like & enjoy where You, O Lord, have established for me to dwell etc... limits, YES & NO, the Way
- **INHERITANCE** – what is passed down to me – delightful (goodly)
- Contentedness; thankfulness; focus on God as the real treasure; I have enough, w/o losing any validity in comparison TO/WITH others & their portion, cup, etc

SLIDE 6 – EXODUS 20:17

SLIDE 7 – DON'T COVET – WRONG DESIRE FOR ANOTHER'S PORTION, CUP, ETC

- COVET – cultivated desire for another person's stuff/etc
- Puts stuff above the Lord – I don't have what I need; God is holding out on me

- Ruins our relationships, steals ability to find joy in what I have, where I am
- Lying, stealing, cheating, etc...
- E.g. Eden; brother Amnon (& Tamar); David & Bathsheba, King Ahab & Naboth; Elisha & Naaman – Gehazi's greed

SLIDES 8-10 – ROMANS 13:8-10

SLIDE 11 – LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR *LEAVE COMPARISONS BEHIND

- Love neighbor as you love yourself; do no harm to others (as to self)
- Paul is addressing heart issues (addressed by the Torah/commands)
- Jesus' instruction (& Torah) to love one another/love neighbor
 - Can't covet (cheat on, steal, lie, murder) if we love
- Comparison – steals joy, contentedness; breeds mistrust of God, His provision, His plans, His purposes, His process
 - 'taking matters into our own hands'

SLIDE 12 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS? *STORY TIME

- Where are you in this process as you listen to this?
- "Christmas time" – greed, covet, lust, desire – what I DON'T have & others do
- Little bit raw/real – will I trust Jesus & His portion, cup, lot, inheritance for me?
 - 3 youth trips – Ireland, Italy, Germany
 - Craig & Tim – other peoples' assignments
 - Joni – workplace blessings & flourishish; not fair

SLIDE 13 – PSALM 16:5,6

SLIDE 14 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace." So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."*

SLIDE 15 – PRAYER IS AVAILABLE