

May we stand please...

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:36-50

Prayer:

Subject: “Gratitude—Is It Hard to Be Thankful?!”

Introduction:

Tell two stories to introduce this message.

Tell a story that shows true appreciation for something someone has done.

Illus: Imagine yourself at age fifteen.

Imagine your family, friends, and the carefree filled 1940’s, this was a reality.

He and his family were included in the millions of European Jews and other minorities packed up and herded into concentration camps during World War Two.

Again, like millions other Jews, Ellie Wiesel’s parents and younger sister did not survive.

Despite all the terror and extreme abuse of the Nazi death camps, Elie Wiesel managed to rebuild his life after Auschwitz.

Listen to what he has stated, “*When a person doesn’t have gratitude...something is missing in his or her humanity. A person can almost be defined by his or her attitude toward gratitude.*”

Gratitude is a feeling of being thankful to somebody for doing something.

Gratitude is being aware of and appreciating blessings and kindnesses given to us.

We can express it through sincere words of thanks and through actions that show our appreciation.

An increased spirit of gratitude will bring increased joy into our lives.

Gratitude is the recognition that life owes me nothing and all the good I have is a gift.

- My eyes are a gift.
- So is my wife, my clothes, my job and my every breath.
- This is a major shift from the entitlement mode.

Recognizing that everything good in life is ultimately a gift is a fundamental truth of reality.

Have you thanked anyone today? Thanksgiving is a rare commodity in our world.

Our text tells the story of **two** people.

One was *repentant* and showed *appreciation* for what Jesus had done for her.

The other was unrepentant and showed no appreciation.

May we, by our words, thoughts, and actions always show appreciation for our Lord Jesus!

I. THE PEOPLE, Vss. 36-39

A Repentant Sinner, Vss. 37-38

A Self-Righteous Pharisee, Vss. 29, 36

II. THE PARABLE Vss. 40-43

The one who is forgiven the most is the most appreciative.

III. THE POINT Vss. 44-50

The Pharisee had not sought for, nor received forgiveness for his sins, therefore, he showed no sign of *appreciation*.

The woman had sought for and received forgiveness by faith.

She showed her appreciation in her actions.

Closing: I do not want to be like this old Pharisee!

I do not want to be like the 9 Lepers who never turned around and gave thanks!

*Beach, B. 11/21/23 Tue./T.Giving WHBC, Dalton