



WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

CULTIVATING A HEART OF GRATITUDE

Provision

Text: Psalm 23:1

Goal: To discuss how relying on the Shepherd's provision combats the enemy and leads to practical contentment.

1. Opening: Following and Voices

- The sermon opened with the image of Jude going missing at Disney. When in your life has it been hardest to follow God's direction? What made you feel like wandering?
- Read Psalm 23:1 aloud together. What is the difference between saying "I don't have enough" and declaring "I shall not want"?
- Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). What does God's voice primarily sound like to you (e.g., peace, conviction, guidance from Scripture)?

2. Discussion Points: The Enemy and the Lie of Want

Gavin identified the three great enemies: the World, the Flesh, and the Devil. It connected our feeling of want to stepping out of God's provision.

- Read 1 Peter 5:8 and discuss the metaphor of the devil as a prowling, roaring lion that hunts in stealth and in the dark.
 - Which of the three enemies (World, Flesh, or Devil) typically uses the lie of "want" to tempt you the most? (e.g., World wants you to want material things; Flesh wants you to want comfort/ease; Devil wants you to want control.)
 - Share a recent situation where you felt vulnerable because you stepped off track or focused on something you felt you lacked.
- Gavin stated: "Want is a lie, we have no need."
 - How does the abundance of our culture (advertising, social media, reality TV) specifically create and sustain this spiritual "lie of want" in your life?

3. Discussion Points: Defense and Direction

Gavin offered Scripture and prayer as the best defense against the lie of want, leading to satisfaction rather than cravings.

- Read Philippians 4:11-13. Paul says he learned the secret of contentment in both abundance and need.
 - Can you share a time when God taught you contentment through a season of need? How did that learning experience change your perspective on material things?
 - How do you practically apply the truth of "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" when facing the financial or emotional pressures of modern life?
- Read Hebrews 13:5. The basis for contentment is the promise: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
 - Why is the presence of God a more powerful antidote to the love of money than simply having more money?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
- The sermon cited Tim Keller: "Gratitude is what you feel. Thanksgiving is what you do."
 - If Thanksgiving is an action taken in all circumstances, how can you make your prayer life more characterized by gratitude and less by a "vending machine" approach?

4. Application: The Lamp of the Body

The final point emphasized that "What you look at directs what you want."

- Read Luke 11:34. Jesus says the eye is the lamp of the body.
 - The sermon warned: "Look at marketplace all the time, you'll want stuff. Look to Jesus, you'll want more of him." What are some practical steps you can take this week to intentionally look at Jesus and God's word more than the things that breed covetousness? (e.g., change your media consumption, set limits on screen time, schedule Scripture reading).
- The application point for multiplication was: "Where God guides, he provides. We're giving generously, which gives us strength against want."
 - How does the act of giving generously to the work of the Kingdom (time, money, talent) function as a practical weapon against the lie of want in your heart?

5. Closing Prayer

Close the time by praying for one another, specifically giving thanks for God's provision and praying for the strength to be content and focused on Jesus this week.