



Sermon Text: Philippians 4:14-23

Sermon Date: June 4, 2017

The last aspect of a gospel-shaped life we examined in our study of Philippians is gospel-shaped gratitude. Pastor Justin pointed out four aspects of gratitude from our passage.

GOSPEL-SHAPED GRATITUDE TAKES NO KINDNESS FOR GRANTED

In verses 14-16, Paul recounts the wonderful ways the Philippian church supported his ministry from the very beginning. After Paul left, they immediately cared for his physical needs “once and again.” While it would have been easy for Paul to adopt a “you owe me” mentality, he didn’t. Even years later, he still thanked God for their kindnesses to him. If we are going to cultivate a heart of gratitude, we too can’t overlook any kindness, no matter how small.

GOSPEL-SHAPED GRATITUDE SEES THE SPIRITUAL REALITY OF GIVING AND GETTING

We saw this in verses 17-18. Paul didn’t just look at their physical gifts. He saw the spiritual reality behind them, and he was profoundly grateful that the way they used their money revealed that the gospel had fundamentally transformed them. He saw their gifts as “a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.” Our gratitude must see below the surface to the spiritual reality of giving and getting.

GOSPEL-SHAPED GRATITUDE IS MARKED BY CONTENTMENT

We saw this in verse 18. It appears that Paul is trying to redirect any future giving by letting them know he is fully supplied. He is content with the kindnesses they’ve already shown him. Gratitude and contentment go hand-in-hand. Discontentment is the result of staring at what we do not have, but want. Gratitude is the opposite. It results from staring at all you do have, but recognize you don’t deserve.

GOSPEL-SHAPED GRATITUDE IS REGULARLY EXPRESSED

This last point wasn’t found in the text. It is the text. In this passage, and throughout the entire letter, Paul is purposefully expressing his gratitude. We must do the same. We must let one another know how thankful to God we are for each other. When a grateful thought pops in our minds, we must purposefully pursue communicating it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. Think about two people in our church you can express gratitude for. Then, don’t just think it, but do it!