



Day thirty-six

For the next 40 days we are offering us all a challenge to consider 40 things that are sucking the life out of us. The challenge is to examine these and through confronting God's word, his Spirit, and his community of faith as we seek to be filled with his life and his love again. At the conclusion of each challenge there will be an opportunity to engage about this with another person and/or the larger community.

Today the thing we are asking us to explore giving up is:

ungratefulness.

Confronting the text

Happy are those

*who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.*

They are like trees

*planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.*

In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,

*but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish, (Psalm 1).*

Confronting my self with God

Psalm one is one of my favorites. I love the idea of a happy person being happy because they don't listen to those around them who are not following God; they stay off the paths of sin which so many others have tread; they don't sit in the places where sinners sit . . . rather, their delight is in following God's Law; listening to what God says as they sit in what is like a stream of God's love and instruction.

When we do this, we will be happy, we will yield fruit for the kingdom, and our actions will not wither.

We often stop at verse three failing to note the failings of the wicked who: *will not stand in the judgment, inhabit the congregation of the righteous . . .* but this is a detrimental stop. An instance of the use of the word wicked seems to relate to listening as it is a reference to *not* listening to God's Law.

How many times have we been brought up short in our ungratefulness as we have complained about something, only to realize that in actuality we have been given more than we could ever need and that we just need to listen to God speaking his truth into our hearts?

Listening to God's people

When was the last time that you spent any time at all just thanking God?

This Sunday, Palm Sunday consider of what it might have been like for those pilgrims to sing "Hosanna!" with great abandon.

Come to church this Sunday, be there on time so you can sing with palms and let God sing into you what is missing from your life.