

Thanksgiving 2020

11/22/2020

Sunday Morning

1. Last week we saw Jacob pray for deliverance (which God had already promised) & then he took things back into his own hands
 - a. He was up all night planning
 - b. He split his possessions into two groups (no small feat)
 - c. We saw the promise of peace to those who pray

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. But Jacob had no peace b/c he didn't trust God
3. This is Thanksgiving – let's look at this passage closer

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

⁵ Let your forbearing *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near.

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

4. When we look at the last 12 months – it has been strange year
 - a. This year we have seen the pandemic; the rule of law, stretched; extreme financial swings; political upheavals; world upheavals –
 - b. Some of you have suffered great personal loss
5. But the truth is – life is very transitory
 - a. Yet in Scripture we are told to have a joyful, gracious & thankful

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

1. "Rejoice in the Lord"
 - a. (χαίρω) – can mean – to rejoice or be happy
 - i. Here it means to have joy
 - ii. It is in the imperative mode – i.e. it is a command
 - b. Joy comes from Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

c. Joy is not dependent on circumstances

i. Paul in prison when he spoke of sharing his joy

Philippians 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

2. "Rejoice in the Lord"

a. It is the realm we are to rejoice in that makes it possible

i. Our rejoicing is to be in Christ

b. There are many situations we don't rejoice over –

i. We are not to rejoice over sin

c. But we can always be delighted b/c of Christ

i. In fact, there are times when the only joy you have, is in Christ

3. "again I will say, rejoice"

a. This is so important – He repeats "rejoice", for emphasis

b. This is also why Satan tries to steal your joy

i. If Satan can steal your joy – you will lose your witness

ii. If you live by your feelings – he can ruin your testimony

iii. If you listen to his accusations – you will lose your joy

iv. If you listen to his lies – you lose your peace

v. And he is a liar

John 8:44 " You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

V.5 Let your *forbearing spirit* be known to all men. *The Lord is near*.

1. "forbearing spirit"

a. "Forbearing" is a compound word meaning something is: suitable, equitable, fair, mild, gentle, patient, moderate

i. This means that if the government tells us to do something we don't like – we are to have a reasonable attitude

- ii. It means that if you disagree w/ someone politically – you don't become hateful, intolerant, petty – you don't have to agree, but don't become mean-spirited
- iii. We are to be gracious – b/c "the Lord is near"

2. "The Lord is near"

- a. "near" – (ἐγγύς) – close
 - i. It is used to mean close in proximity or close in time
 - ii. In this case it refers to time
 - 01. In our day the Lord is more than near in proximity
 - 1. He indwells us
- iii. "The Lord is near" means – He could come back at any moment

V.6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

1. "Be anxious for nothing"

- a. "anxious" – (μεριμνάω) – anxious, troubled, worried, overly concerned
 - i. Worry is – "not trusting God for what is best"
 - 01. If "hate" is the most destructive emotion
 - 02. And "fear" causes us to do things we wouldn't do otherwise – the second most debilitating emotion
 - 03. "Worry" is the most damaging of all – it is like termites, always eating at you

2. "but in everything by prayer and supplication"

- a. "Prayer" & "supplication" not the same thing
- b. You see that clearly when referring to Christ's earthly life

Hebrews 5:7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

3. "by prayer"

- a. Word means to pray or place of prayer (i.e. synagogue)
 - i. The idea behind the word is more than to pray
 - ii. The idea is – communing w/ God – being in communion w Him

- iii. Spending time w/ the Father – same word used of Christ in prayer

Matthew 14:23 And after He had sent the multitudes away, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

Luke 6:12 And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

Luke 5:16 But He Himself would *often* slip away to the wilderness and pray.

- b. "supplication" means to petition God w/ specific requests

- i. Paul petitioned God in behalf of the Philippians

Philippians 1:4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

4. "with thanksgiving"

- a. "with thanksgiving" brings us to the topic of the day – "thanksgiving"

- b. If you were born w/ a positive disposition – then you are probably a thankful person (people are born w/ a positive & negative dispositions)

- i. But for the believer, a heart of thanksgiving isn't based on our disposition – it is a decision we make

- c. We are thankful for many things:

- i. First & foremost we are thankful for Christ

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you.

²⁰ "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for His incredible gift!

- d. Our appreciation for Who Christ is, will continue to grow forever

- i. In eternity we will continue to understand more

Revelation 5:13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on

the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be blessing* and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

¹⁴ And the four living creatures kept saying, " Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

- e. We are told to give thanks under every circumstance

1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- i. We are to give thanks " in" all things – not for all things

01. "In" (ἐν) – is a primary preposition denoting (fixed) position

- f. I find myself emphasizing "thanks to God" for different reasons than I did earlier in life

- g. I find myself thanking Him for more & more for His character

- h. It gives me peace to know Who He is:

- i. It gives me peace to know that God is never surprised by anything – He knows everything

Job 34:21 "For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps.

Psalms 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are *open* to their cry.

01. This brings me peace – knowing that He knows everything

- i. I take comfort in knowing that He is all powerful

Isaiah 46:9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me,

¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ' My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand,

Job 23:13 "But He is unique and who can turn Him? And *what* His soul desires, that He does.

j. I am thankful that He always is truthful

Hebrews 6:17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,

¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,

k. I'm very thankful that He is loving

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1 John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

l. That He is patient

Romans 9:22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

²³ And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,

²⁴ *even* us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

- m. Eternity is long – I'm very thankful that He will never change
 - i. He will never ever change

Psalm 33:11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

Psalm 102:27 "But Thou art the same, And Thy years will not come to an end.

James 1:17 Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ *is the same* yesterday and today, *yes* and forever.

- n. Because God transcends all limits I don't fret about my limitations
 - i. Nothing causes Him to hesitate to do His will

Isaiah 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.

Isaiah 43:13 "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

Psalm 135:5 For I know that the LORD is great And that our Lord is above all gods.

⁶ Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

- o. That His character is what it is should bring you peace
- p. Give thanks to Him Who is worthy!

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, **let us show gratitude**, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.