

Giving Thanks/Living Thankfully
November 18, 2018

I **SLIDE** Now what?

A) **John 13:6-10 (NIV)** ⁶ [Jesus] came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus replied, "**You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.**"

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "**Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.**" ⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "**A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean.**"

B) **SLIDE John 15:1-3 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] ¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

1) **SLIDE** Clean

a) clean or pure in a natural sense

b) Clean or pure in a spiritual sense from the pollution and guilt of sin

c) Upright, void of evil

2) **SLIDE** Prunes

a) Cleans from filth, purify

b) Cleanse thoroughly

II **SLIDE** Thanksgiving

A) Process Behind the Message

1) **Psalms 119:104-105 (NIV)** ¹⁰⁴ I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore, I hate every wrong path. ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

2) College days - wrong paths - came to hate those wrong paths and learned to follow the right one

- 3) This mirrors my walk - and maybe your walk - with Jesus
- 4) We take paths called Legalism, Complacency, Compromise, Just Enough, Freedom Road, Not That Bad, etc.
- 5) We travel these roads, when with the Lord's help and the Light of His Word, we find the right path
- 6) But, there is more; we also learn to hate those wrong path
- 7) Carol
 - a) We will be sitting home, reading, watching TV, doing nothing
 - b) Carol will look at me and say, "I love you."
 - c) She would comment on how happy she is and how happy I make her
 - d) I usually respond, "I am glad."
 - e) And then follow it up with thoughts like "I can do better," or "I'm sorry I was not always like this,"
 - f) In my mind I would think about the times I failed her
 - g) Then, Saturday Carol told me to read this word from the Lord
 - h) **SLIDE November 16, 2018.** Sometimes thoughts come to your mind that you aren't being who you need to be or doing what you ought to do. The devil wants you to stay in doubt and gives you reasons why you don't measure up. But I want you to be at peace with yourself and confident in what you do. The devil throws a wet soggy blanket on your confidence. But I bring you peace and joy and will be specific if I want you to do something.
- 8) **SLIDE** All of this made me think about the difference between giving thanks and living thankfully
- B) I returned to the elementary truths
 - 1) First, repentance from acts that lead to death
 - 2) John the Baptist
 - a) **Mark 1:4 (NIV)** ⁴ And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

b) **Luke 3:8 (NIV)** [Then John said,] ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

3) **SLIDE 2 Corinthians 7:10 (AMP)** ¹⁰ For godly grief *and* the pain God is permitted to direct, produce a repentance that leads *and* contributes to salvation *and* deliverance from evil, and it never brings regret; but worldly grief (the hopeless sorrow that is characteristic of the pagan world) is deadly [breeding and ending in death].

4) After Carol gave me that word, I realized that I had thanked Jesus over and over for forgiving me

5) I thanked Him for my wife, my family, and my blessings

6) I had thanked Him for showing me those wrong paths and putting me on the right path

7) Every time I heard Carol say, "I love you," I could hear Jesus say, "I love you,"

8) Then, Jesus asked me, "Then why do you keep going over the past?"

9) Why, every time a blessing comes your way do you think you do not deserve it?

10) Your wife's love and happiness are proof of fruit in keeping with repentance. So, why do you are you not thankful?

11) In essence, I was saying that I do not deserve Jesus' forgiveness or my wife's love

12) That is exactly the point! None of us deserve what Jesus has to offer.

13) If we could, then we would not need Him.

14) It was at that point that I realized there was a difference between my giving thanks and my truly being thankful

C) **SLIDE** Which brings us to the second truth: Faith in God

1) Repentance has no power without faith in God, for it is God Who forgives, wipes away our sins, and restores us

- 2) **Isaiah 43:25 (NIV)** ²⁵ "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.
- 3) **Hebrews 8:12 (NASB)** ¹² "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."
- 4) Faith in God means we believe what He has declared about His willingness to forgive, forget, and restore us
- 5) Jesus took all our sins upon Himself and bore them to the cross so we would no longer have to do that
- D) Giving thanks is important; living thankfully is also
 - 1) Thankful = relieved, grateful, glad, happy
 - 2) Thinking back on my failures robbed me of true joy and appreciation of all that God has done for me, for us
 - 3) It was as if I needed to punish myself for what God had forgiven

III Thanksgiving

A) A national holiday

B) A lifestyle

- 1) We need to give thanks in all situations because Jesus is always with us
- 2) We need to be thankful and accept with joy all that repentance has given us
- 3) We need to stop revisiting all of those old paths and thinking we do not deserve God's unmerited acceptance and blessing
- 4) We don't, but that is the real reason behind our thanks
- 5) His grace is the real reason why we are to live thankfully, confidently, boldly - but never arrogantly or flippantly