



Gratitude!

Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Observations

- As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday season, I feel the need to emphasize some principles that work all year, not just this season
- We are now living at a time in our society when gratitude is not often expressed, and when someone chooses to help us, it is easily forgotten
- In our society, undercutting people or backstabbing them seems to be the “the way you work it!”
- We need to be thankful for three things



#1 God's Goodness to You!

- In Deuteronomy 8, God reminds His people of how He had looked after them in the wilderness (He keeps count)
- How He fed them with manna (vs 3)
- How their clothes never wore out in the wilderness and their feet didn't swell up (vs 4)
- He then gives them a picture of all of the blessings and wealth they would have in the land of promise (vs 6-9)



He Then Warns His Children Not to Forget His Goodness!

“Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes....” (vs 11)

After Receiving So Much God Says:
verse 17

“ then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’”

- The word “forget” is mentioned three times and the word “remember” once, in this portion of scripture



Observations

- ▶ It never ceases to amaze me how often God blesses us when we cry out for help, but we don't have time for Him or make time when the blessings come
 - ▶ I have prayed with brothers and sisters for suitable employment, but once they “get it” they “*forget Him*”
 - ▶ I have prayed with members for healing of their physical infirmities, but once they are “*much better,*” they go back to their worldly habits, and “*forget God*”

Observations

Sometimes We *Think* We Want What Other People Have

- ▶ Remember when God's people asked God for an earthly King like the other nations had (1 Samuel 8)? They didn't know that they were asking for trouble and boy, didn't they get it!
- ▶ They wanted the physical presence, but didn't understand that "*the moral presence was more important*" (socially, we do the same thing)
- ▶ Contrast this with when Solomon was giving a "*blank check*" on which to write his wish list (2 Chronicles 1:7-12, he asked for wisdom and knowledge to lead Israel)



Be Thankful For What He Has Done For You!

I Really Love the Lord

“You don’t know, what He’s done for me,”

“You don’t know, how He set me free,”

***“You weren’t there, when He brought
me out”***

“And that’s why I shout!”




#2 Be Thankful For The Good Of Others To You!

We Live In A “Backstabbing World”

- How many times have you heard about a senior manager, bringing a young person at work under their wing to absorb wisdom from them and gain needed experience, only to be “undercut” by the younger person, who grabs their job
- A young lady, who happens to be going through some tough times, is befriended by a married woman. And after several months with the married couple, she begins an affair with the husband, which devastates the wife

*At Times Like These We Are Reminded To Cultivate
Thankfulness For the Real Friends We Have*



But We Forget to Be Thankful For Our Friends

- In 1 Samuel 23:1-12, David saved the people Keilah from the storm of being captured by the Philistines; but to show *their* gratitude, they were ready to hand him over to the Philistines
- Joseph, in Genesis 40, interpreted Pharaoh's cupbearer's dream, and was shown gratitude from the cupbearer by "forgetting" Joseph, once he got where *he* wished to be.
- Don't forget the teachers, parents, brothers, and sisters who enabled you along the way.
- As much as we brag about it, *nobody* makes it on their own.



#3 Be Thankful For Your Family Members' Goodness

- **Husbands, remember the girl you married, the one that bore your child? Be thankful for the one that encourages you in the Lord**
- **Wives, remember the fellow that you fell in love with years ago? Be thankful for him. Surely his gray hair now—or lack of hair—doesn't bring negativity to your real feelings**
- **Children, be thankful for the parents that God has blessed you to have. One good Godly parent can take you higher than you would have gone without him/her (2 Timothy 1:5)**
- **Parents, thank God for blessing you with children (They may have ups and downs; but through it all, God knew what He was doing giving them to you)**
- **Siblings, thank God for blessing you with “the good times” together (Moses and Miriam; Mary and Martha)**



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel **Acts 15:7**

Believe the Gospel **Acts 15:7**

Repent Of Sins **Acts 17:30**

Confess Christ **Acts 8:37**

Be Baptized **Acts 8:38**

