

Beyond The Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: A Thankful Heart (Growing Deeper; a series on Romans 1:21 - Part 3)

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

MESSAGE THEME & PRAYER FOCUS

"Having A Thankful Heart"

"Father God, I thank you for being there when I call on you. I am so thankful that you can use the rough circumstances I go through to show that you're close to me even in the middle of them. Thank you for the opportunity I have to praise you when life gets difficult. When things don't turn out the way I had planned, I know that your plans are so much bigger and so much better. Thank you Lord, Amen."

KEY TRUTHS & DAILY APPLICATIONS

Romans 1:21 talks about how the people fell away from God by doing four things. They didn't glorify Him as God, they were not thankful, they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened. If we take these steps and put them in reverse, we get a roadmap for growing closer to God.

1. Glorify God (while minimizing the things that are not a part of the Kingdom of God).
- 2. Be thankful.**
3. Recognize the power of our imagination (meditate on God's word).
4. Have a good heart.

Focusing on being thankful, even when we don't feel like it, will place us right in the will of God. His will for us is to give thanks in everything, which is very different than giving thanks for everything. God is not the author of bad things, but we can still give thanks in the midst of what is happening because of His faithfulness. Thankfulness may not seem like a natural response, and it might not come easy for us, but it allows God to keep moving in our lives.

A lack of thanksgiving creates a sense of entitlement and breeds resentment. One of the ways we can resist the devil is with praise and worship. Being thankful has much less to do with our circumstances than it has to do with our heart posture toward God and who He is in spite of what we face.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were thrown in prison for doing the Lord's work. Their hands and feet were bound but their mouths weren't covered. In their darkest moment, they turned to praising God. The prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. God moves in miraculous ways when we praise him.

PUT IT IN TO PRACTICE

Picture yourself giving something of great value to someone you care deeply about. Imagine that they somehow neglect or abuse this valuable thing you gave them without so much as acknowledging that it was from you. Now picture the opposite, as they reach out to you after using it, expressing to you how much they enjoy it, how it has changed their life, and how grateful and thankful they are that you thought of them.

Which scenario seems more honoring to you? Take that same mindset and focus on your relationship with your heavenly Father. How can you honor Him and offer thanksgiving in your life this week? Pick a daily time this week to stop what you are doing, give God thanks from your heart, and watch your relationship grow and your perspective shift.

Key Verses:

- Romans 1:21
- Acts 16:25-26
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13
- Psalms 8:2, 47:7, 69:30, 78:40-45
- 2 Timothy 3:1-2
- Hebrews 13:15
- 1 Chronicles 16:34
- 2 Chronicles 20:20-22
- Matthew 21:12-16
- Acts 16:25-26
- Mark 8:6
- 1 Timothy 4:3-5
- Isaiah 26:30, 61:1-3

DECLARATIONS

"Thank you God that I am forgiven and loved. Thank you for salvation, healing, joy, peace, and all of your promises to me. Thank you Father for being my advocate. Thank you that I can call on your name and cast my cares on you. Thank you that I can praise you in every situation. I choose to praise you, honor you, and focus on you and your Kingdom inside me versus the darkness around me. I know that as I lift up your name you will be glorified and hearts will be changed as people come to know you as their loving Father".

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References A Thankful Heart

Romans 1:21 NKJV

...because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Psalms 119:128 NKJV

Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Mark 11:25 NKJV

And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him..

Psalms 69:30 NKJV

I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 78:40-45 NKJV

How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, *And* grieved Him in the desert!
Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy, When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan; Turned their rivers into blood, And their streams, that they could not drink. He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them, And frogs, which destroyed them.

2 Timothy 3: 1,2,4 NKJV

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..

Hebrews 13:15 NKJV

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

1 Chronicles 16:34 NKJV

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

2 Timothy 3:2 NKJV

For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Matthew 21:12-16 NKJV

Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were [b]indignant 16 and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?"

Psalms 8:2 NKJV

Because of Your enemies,
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

2 Chronicles 20: 20-21 NKJV

So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever."

Acts 16: 25-26 NKJV

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

Mark 8:6 NKJV

So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them...

1 Timothy 4:3-5 NKJV

forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is [a]sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Isaiah 61:1-3 NKJV

“The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...

Isaiah 26:3 NKJV

You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Acts 16:14-24 NKJV

Habakkuk 3:17-18 NKJV

Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls—Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.