

Rossville Church of Christ

Doorpost Devo



November 19, 2023



Encouragement from God's Word

Luke 17:5-19: Disciples Obey and Give Thanks

Thankfulness is a fruit of what we find joy in and value most greatly. In light of this, we all expect thanks but sometimes are slow to express it. We are mystified when others fail to be grateful toward us, but we often go through life without thinking to be thankful to God and others. This is often a function of a self-centered view of the universe. If I value my own esteem and reputation and desires above all else, gratitude will be choked out. I will be less willing to forgive, more jaded when I do not receive the thanks I think I deserve, and more entitled when I experience the generosity of others. Why?

Scripture Plan: Read

Mon, Tues, Wed.:

Luke 14:12-24 Each Night

Thurs., Fri., Sat.:

Luke 14:25-35 Each Night

Devo Plan

1. Mon.--Read and Pray Together
2. Tues.--Read, Pray, Ask Questions, and Discuss
3. Wed.--Read, Pray, and Think about how to Apply
4. Thurs.-Sat.--Repeat steps 1-3 with New Passage
5. Sunday--Pray and Reflect on What was Learned in Worship and Class

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Discussion Questions

Luke 14:12-24

Discussion Question #1: What kinds of people does Jesus say to invite to banquets? Why?

Discussion #2: In the parable, what excuses are made to avoid the Master's invitation? What excuses do we make to avoid what God is calling us to? Why?

Discussion #3: What do we learn from the passage about God? What do we learn about ourselves?

Luke 14:25-35

Discussion #1: What does Jesus mean when he calls his disciples to hate their own lives and families? What is he getting at?

Discussion #2: What Jesus mean by taking up a cross? What might this look like in our daily lives?

Discussion #3: Why is it important to count the cost before we decide to follow Jesus? What is the cost?

Apply and Obey

To obey what God says, this upcoming week I will...

I will share what I learned with...

Prayer Points

- Lord, Thank You--for your generous invitation of grace toward us.
- Lord, We Praise You--that you love us and call us to follow you.
- Lord, Help Us-to love you more than anything and be willing to pay whatever the cost to obey and follow you.

Because my greatest value is myself, my needs, and my wants. In such a view of reality, there is no reason for thanks because any kindness I receive is simply what I feel that I am entitled to.

Jesus invites his disciples into a God-centered way of viewing the universe. He calls us to see all of life through the eyes of faith and trust in God as the greatest value rather than ourselves. We see a glimpse of this in Luke 17:5-19:

“The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. “Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’” On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

In the context of Jesus’ radical call of forgiveness, the disciples plead for greater faith. In a man-centered view of reality, such deep forgiveness seems unthinkable. But through the eyes of faith, it is the only natural response. If I see and trust in the great mercy God has granted me, it is only right that I extend such grace to others.

After this appeal for faith, Jesus launches into a discussion of the perspective and attitude that I servant should have. Those who are in the role of a faithful and dutiful servant should not expect a huge celebration for doing what they were commanded to do by the master. It is their job. It is expected. It is the rightful duty of the servants to do the bidding of the master. If I see myself as an unworthy and undeserving servant of the almighty Lord of the universe, I will have a radically different perspective on life.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9

What I do in life is not to curry favor with God or to coerce him to bless. What I do in life for the good of others is not to win the praise of man. I do what is right because God is the King, and I am not. Jesus is the Master, and I am the servant. Nothing I do is spectacular or deserving of great praise and honor because I am a lowly servant who has been treated far better than I deserve.

In contrast, Jesus is deserving of all praise, honor, glory, and gratitude. Following the discussion of unworthy servants, Luke records a story of ten lepers being healed by Jesus. Out of ten, only one Samaritan leper returns to give thanks and praise to God. Jesus commends this as the proper response of faith. The implication is the generosity and healing of Jesus is deserving of praise because it is not done out of duty but out of grace and mercy. God is not obligated to give us anything, but He abundantly showers us with spiritual riches because He loves us.

In a God-centered understanding of the world, we should be in constant awe and gratitude for all that God has done. The air in our lungs, the rising sun, the gift of life all around us is enough to be stunned by the mercy of the Creator. How much more should we be grateful that God planned the sacrifice of His own Son before the foundation of the world for undeserving sinners like us. What draw-dropping kindness this is. What incredible love. If we had our eyes clearly fixed on this and embraced it in our hearts, we would never fail to be grateful. We would never forget to give thanks. We would be consumed by wonder and reverence to know that we have been touched by the kindness of the all-glorious God of everything. If we would only see who He is and His supreme value in comparison to our own, gratitude would well up in our hearts and burst forth in praise. Jesus is the matchless treasure and we are unworthy servants lavished with unbelievable generosity. As disciples of Jesus, let us live in this reality. Let us be people of forgiveness, generosity, obedience, and thankfulness.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9