



Week of October 13, 2019: Thanksgiving

Discussion Questions Set #1

In sermon, we talked about the reality that the act of thanksgiving in our world is significantly impacted by the presence of an “entitlement” mindset in our culture. Pretty simply, because we expect certain things – access to a university education, awards for participation in a sporting activity or “me” time are some examples – we tend not to express thanks for such things. The unspoken rationale seems to be “why give thanks for something I deserve?”.

1. Discuss both the culture of entitlement and the culture of thanklessness present in our world. Are you aware of these cultural realities? Where do you see this functioning?
2. Why do you think entitlement gives rise to thanklessness? How have you seen this at work in your experience?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“... to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.” (Titus 1:15-16)

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:9 -11)

1. How does better understanding our depravity (fallen-ness, sinfulness) lead us to greater thankfulness?
2. How might an entitlement mindset influence one’s view of God’s grace and mercy?
3. How might understanding God as a Heavenly Father who lovingly gives His people good gifts help us to better accept His divine “different” when it comes our way? If God really does have a divinely ordained “different” in mind for us, how might our thankfulness influence it’s coming into being?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods. Give thanks to the Lord of lords: to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights— the sun to govern the day, moon and stars to govern the night; to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt and brought Israel out from among them with a mighty hand and outstretched arm; to him who divided the Red Sea asunder and brought Israel through the midst of it, but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea; to him who led his people through the wilderness; to him who struck down great kings, and killed mighty kings— Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan— and gave their land as an inheritance, an inheritance to his servant Israel. He remembered us in our low estate and freed us from our enemies. He gives food to every creature. Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.” (Psalm 136)

In sermon, we discussed four realms of thankfulness present in Psalm 136 that can help shape our thankfulness as followers of Jesus. The four realms were:

- Realm 1: a willingness to offer thanks to God for who He is. Ask yourself: today, am I thankful for who God is, who I know Him to be?
- Realm 2: a willingness to offer thanks for the things God has done generally. Ask yourself: today, am I thankful for God’s general goodness?
- Realm 3: a willingness to give thanks for what God has done specifically. Ask yourself: today, am I thankful for God’s specific goodness to me; to us?
- Realm 4: a willingness to give thanks for what God is yet to do. Ask yourself: today, am I thankful for the things that I know God is yet to do for us?



1. Of these four realms, which are you most comfortable engaging in? Which realm of thanksgiving might be most difficult for you to engage in?
2. Discuss why thankfulness in each of these four realms is important. What happens if we fail to be thankful in each specific realm?
3. In service, we took some time to express our own Hillside "Psalm 136". Take some time as a group to write out a "Psalm 136" for your H2H Group. Remember to touch on all four realms of thanksgiving if possible.