

Sit at My Right Hand - Psalms 110
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Generally, when you think of thanksgiving and gratitude we associate this with the fourth Thursday in November, with turkey and all the givings followed by falling asleep on the couch watching bad football. We may pause on that day to offer thanks to God, or go around the room and ask every person to share one thing for which they are thankful. While having a holiday we label Thanksgiving is a good thing, the truth is that the heart posture of a person who has received the grace of God through the cross of Christ should be one of gratitude. Our Psalm this week is a song reminding Israel to give thanks by giving a long litany of reasons for their gratitude. In singing the song they would be reminded of who they were as God's covenant people and of all that God had done for them. The result would be an eruption of thankfulness on the tongues of the Hebrew people.

Thankfulness is a vital response from the soul of all people, especially those who claim Christ. We are told in Romans 1 that the path toward hardness of heart and the wrath of God begins when we fail to acknowledge God as God and cease being thankful. Once this begins people will take the glorious gifts of God and center their lives on the gift while rejecting the giver. This is the basic definition of idolatry, and the way there flows down a path whose trailhead is the lack of gratitude. Listen, we have to know that our thanks does not stroke God's ego, and our thankfulness does not in some way add anything to God's godness. Yet, when we express thanks for the gifts of God it shapes us as we remember that we are dependent creatures who have been deeply loved by an infinite God. Thanksgiving protects us from the two-pronged dangers of bitterness and pride that lurks within our sinful souls and puts us in the position of a recipient of mercy and grace.

This Psalm also reminds us that thanksgiving is not only an attitude of gratitude or an expression of thanks to the universe. The word translated "thanks" in verses 1-3 and 26 refer to a verbal confession of thankfulness, or in other words, we need to actually use our lips to give thanks. Furthermore, the object of our thanks is clearly defined here, we are to thank Jehovah God, who is the God of gods and Lord of lords. The reason is that our thanks is a reminder that all we have and all we are come as a result of the gracious gifts of God. We don't deserve any good thing, but we have received all good things from the Lord, because He is good!

The Psalm also echoes a short refrain over and over, "For His steadfast love endures forever." What a phrase to repeat, to get driven deep into our soul. We give thanks because God deeply loves us, His love will not give up on His people, and His love will do miracles to keep His promises to us. Every gift listed in this passage flows from God's love for His covenant people resulting in His blessings and grace in their lives. No wonder we see echoes of this Psalm all over the Old Testament story. They are singing this song during the Exodus. They sing this song at the dedication of the Temple in the time of Solomon (2 Chronicles 7:3ff). And the people rebuilding the Temple after the Babylonian exile have this song on their lips as they build (Ezra 3:11ff).

The song is rooted in God's covenant relationship with Israel, the chosen people who are descendants of Abraham. In covenant God promised He would never give up, never cast them away, and would always work redemptively for their good. The whole Old Testament story reveals God's faithfulness to them while the people, on the other hand, are never faithful to the covenant.

The song recounts three mighty acts of God for His people then which have New Testament equivalences because of Christ. First, they are to give thanks for the wonderful creation of God. All of creation is a gift, and we should be reminded that these gifts should lift our souls to thankfulness. Way too often we get centered on the gifts rather than finding joy in the gift while relishing in the Giver. Second, the story tells of God's redemption. For Israel this means the Exodus story, God's deliverance from slavery at the hand of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. So the song gives thanks for the acts of God "with a strong hand and outstretched arm" which defeated their enemies, set them free, and fulfilled God's promises. The Exodus

story is a foretaste of the cross and resurrection where Christ's mighty hands were outstretched, yet those who crucified Him had no idea how strong those arms truly were, and how much they were arms of love. In His death Jesus destroyed our greatest enemies, death, hell, and the grave, and by His resurrection has set us free from our slavery and guilt. Finally, the song gives thanks for God's covenant keeping care and provision. God had defeated their enemies and given them the Promised Land. While in the land He continued to fight for them and give their food annually so their families could live. God is still a promise keeping God who gives us so many gifts.

We need Psalm 136 as a reminder to give thanks. Sometimes we will find a person who is both happy and thankful, and I will think, happy people are thankful. But it is really the other way around, thankful people are happy.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Deuteronomy 26	Deuteronomy 27	Deuteronomy 28	Deuteronomy 29	Deuteronomy 30	Deuteronomy 31	Deuteronomy 32

Reading from this past week: Psalm 136

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Psalm 150

Family Worship

Song - *Lovingkindness*

<https://youtu.be/xV-fNmt6ZAO>

Gospel Project

Story: Barnabus in Antioch

Story Point: Barnabus went to Antioch to encourage believers.

Big Picture Question: What is the Gospel?

Answer: The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.

Scripture: Acts 11

New City Catechism

Question #10: What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

Answer: Sixth, that we do not hurt or hate our neighbor. Seventh, that we live purely and faithfully. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else.

Verse: Romans 13:9

Scripture

Psalm 136

- Share one thing you have experienced with your senses in the last week that brought you awe and for which you should be thankful?
- What about God's redemption and salvation most reminds you of His great love for you? Give thanks for that.
- What is an area of life where you have experienced God's provision and care for you and your family recently? Show gratitude to God in prayer for His love shown to you in this way.

Prayer

*Pray for the Genesis Church staff this week. Pastor Mike, Travis Dierker, Carla Moore, Missy Raley, and Leslie Holdegraver.

*Spend time thanking God for His love that endures forever, and for his creation, redemption, and care.