



November 25, 2018

Main Text: Psalm 50:14-15, 23

Optional Ice Breaker

Have everyone make a list of the 10 things they are most thankful for this year. Go around the room asking everyone to read their list. Note any interesting answers as well as answers that overlap on several different lists.

The BIG IDEA

Giving Thanks to God

Getting in the Word

It's good to be grateful for what we receive. In fact, the Bible tells us to thank God for our blessings on a regular basis, "always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20). How does a grateful heart help your walk with God?

Sometimes life throws situations at us that are very difficult, and it's hard to find anything to be thankful for. Have you ever been in a situation that didn't have a silver lining?

Take a minute and read Psalm 50:14-15 as well as verse 23. These verses talk about thankfulness as a sacrifice that we give to God. Have you ever thought about giving thanks as if it were a sacrifice? What does it mean to sacrifice something?

Psalm 116:17 also affirms thanksgiving as a sacrifice, "I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD." Do you think giving thanks as a sacrifice and being thankful are two different things? Why or why not?

Being grateful is defined as expressing appreciation of benefits received. Therefore, is it possible to be thankful for all things? Why or why not?

From a different perspective, giving thanks to God is an act of praise that we're choosing to do regardless of the circumstances we're in. With this in mind, is it possible to give thanks in all things? Why or why not?

Lastly, take a look at Psalm 136:1, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." Reading this verse may help us put into perspective the act of giving thanks. We are called to give thanks to God because He is good, not because He is going to make our lives better. Yes, He will dramatically influence our lives and He will protect us. But, that can't be the only reason we praise Him and give Him thanks. Does this change the way you see thanksgiving as a Christian? Why or why not?

The BIG Question Is

Are you giving thanks to God, or are you just thankful for what you have? Here's a test, if a bad situation doesn't change in your life, is God still worthy of your thanksgiving?