



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Prayer Walk Mall Series, Lesson 27

Lesson Title: Give Thanks for Everything

Take Home Point: Give thanks to God for everything.

Warm-Up:

What would happen if everything for which you are not grateful simply disappeared? What might be missing in your life? The story is told of a boy who woke one day to find himself on an island far from home. In this unusual place, when a person was not grateful for something, that something disappeared. The boy tended to be a complainer, so one by one, things around him vanished as he expressed his ungratefulness. The food provided by the one island resident wasn't good enough, so it was gone. The lone palm tree that gave shade was too small. So it too disappeared. The rock on which he sat was too hard. Poof! It evaporated beneath him. Worst of all, the boy complained that the only other person there wasn't really much of a friend, and he disappeared, too! The boy was alone, without a friend or even the small things that could have made life more livable and enjoyable.

Read: Psalm 136:1-4, 23-26; Ephesians 5:20

Observation (What happened?):

Why are we to give thanks to the Lord?

According to Psalm 136:23-24, what has he done for us?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the writer of this psalm emphasizes God's love as enduring forever?

What do you think Paul means when he says "everything" in Ephesians 5:20?

Insight:

A co-worker of mine has a poster over his desk. Written by pastor, author, and radio speaker Chuck Swindoll, the words are a great expression of an eternal truth: "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that other people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one thing we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes."

Application (What does it mean to me?):

For what in your life is it difficult to give thanks to God? Why? What will you do about it?

Take five minutes to write down everything you can think of to be thankful for. Time yourself. Did you run out of time or out of items? Why?

Kingdom Quest year 2