



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus is The King Series, Lesson 27

Lesson Title: Oh, Give Thanks For He Is Good

Take Home Point: We thank God for he is the giver of all our blessings.

Warm-Up:

Have you ever seen the pride and joy of a bride-to-be showing off her engagement ring? Is she excited simply because she is now the owner of an expensive gold band with a glittering gemstone on top? When someone asks, "Oh, it's beautiful! Who gave it to you?", how would you expect her to respond? Can you imagine her saying, "What do you mean? I just have it. It is beautiful and it's mine!" Most folks would think it strange for her to not acknowledge the loving giver of that ring, and probably wonder how she could be so self-centered and ungrateful. Even if she privately thanks her fiance, it would be odd for her to not do it publicly as well.

Read: Psalm 107:1

Observation (What happened?):

Why are we to give thanks to the Lord?

How long does his mercy last?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you think "the Lord is good" means?

Since the Lord is always good and his mercy endures forever, when and where do you think we should give thanks to him?

Insight:

How do you feel when you do something good for someone, and he doesn't recognize your kindness or express thanks? If you are like me, then once, twice, even a few times doesn't really matter. But if it continues, then I begin to think that the person is not simply ungrateful, but is rejecting me. If none of my goodness (small, weak, or misguided though it may be) is worth acknowledging, then perhaps it is because I am not worth acknowledging. And that hurts. The point is, if that's how you and I as sinful human beings react; imagine God's heart when we are thankless. He knows our selfishness, and he knows our thanks will be imperfect. But he still delights to hear us thank him both alone and in public. Want a place to start? Read Colossians 1:12-14.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Play the "Thanksgiving Alphabet" game. Starting with "A", take turns going through the alphabet and think of something or someone for which you are thankful. If you do it with your family, remind each other that all these gifts are from God. You can also play this game by yourself, thanking God directly for all he is and does.