

A Lack of Gratitude (He Forgot To Say “Thanks”)

2 Chronicles 32:24-25

Thanksgiving JOKE: What do you get when you cross a turkey with Dolly Parton? More turkey breast than you could ever eat!

Our text records the sad end of one Judah’s greatest Kings. 2 Chronicles 31:20 says Hezekiah “*wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God.*” 2 Kings 18:5 says, “*He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.*”

➡ But, a spirit of ingratitude lead to Hezekiah’s undoing.

➡ Ingratitude is a sign of the times—“*In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful***” (2 Tim. 3:2).

While I was in Costco this week, several children were gathered around a lady food sampler. I watched in line as these kids would snatch up samples as fast as they were put on the food tray. A bit frustrated, the food sampler said, “Can’t you say, ‘Thank-you?’” After the children finally cleared out, and I picked up a sample, smiled, and said, “Thank-you.” The food sampler smiled back saying, “Why can’t kids say ‘thank you’ anymore.” “Because they haven’t been taught,” I answered.

Man’s greatest failure is not failing to recognize God exists, but failing to glorify Him with thanksgiving— “*...when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful...*” (Rom. 1:21).

The longer I live, the more I realize A FAILURE TO SHOW THANKS FOR GOD’S GRACE is one of the worst sins committed by men. There are a number of “low-down, dirty” things a person might do to God, but none so selfish than to pray to God regarding some serious problem, and then, after God answers your prayer, you go back to business as usual without offering a word of thanks.

William Law wrote in *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*—

“Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world? It is not he who prays most or fasts most; it is not he who gives the most, or is

most eminent for temperance, chastity, or justice—but it is he who is always thankful to God, who wills everything that God willeth, who received everything as an instance of God's goodness, and has a heart always ready to praise God for it."

I. God's COMPASSIONS. (*"In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign."*) (cf. 2 Kings 20:1-19)

- The **RECEIVING** of God's blessings. *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning...* (Lam 3:22-23).

A. God blessed Hezekiah many times and in many ways he did not deserve (2 Kings 18-20). He miraculously delivered Hezekiah from an invasion of the Assyrian army... healed him of a fatal disease... extended his life 15 years... and worked a miracle by turning the sun's shadow backward 10 degrees according to his request.

1. **Great blessings should lead to great thanksgivings!** *BUT*, Hezekiah failed to give thanks unto God for all these wonderful blessings.
2. Psalm 107:21-22— *Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving.*

B. Think of all God has done for you. Take inventory of God's blessings in your life. Do you have a "Thanksgiving List?"

Salvation	Your freedom	Answered prayer
Bible	Your country	Your material needs
Your family	Your health	met
Your church		

II. Man's CARELESSNESS. (*"But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him..."*).

- The **REPROACH** of thanklessness.
- A. David said in Psalm 103:2—*"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and FORGET not all his benefits."* We forget because we are become careless about God's blessings or we become presumptuous.

- ➡ The “giving of thanks” conveys the **idea of “grace.”** JOKE: What do you get when you cross a praying mantis and a termite? Answer: A bug that says grace before eating your house!
- B. In the old Anglo-Saxon language “thankful” meant “thankful”). We fail to render thanks because we don’t think about what God has done for us. **Thanksgiving is “the memory of the heart.”**
- ➡ Instead of gratitude, Hezekiah took God’s blessings for granted.
- C. Some form of “thanks,” “thanksgiving,” or “praise” is found over 450 times in a King James Bible. Obviously, God puts a high value on expressing our gratitude towards Him.
- ➡ Do you realize you are not even on “praying ground” until you render thanksgiving— *Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving*, (Ps. 95:2). Psalm 100:4— *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*
- D. Don’t ever think God overlooks our ingratitude. When Jesus healed the ten lepers and only one came back to say “thank-you,” He asked, *“Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?”* Jesus was **disturbed and hurt** by their lack of consideration to give glory to God for their healing.
1. So many are quick to blame God for the hurts in their life, but fail to thank Him for all the good things in their lives.
 2. We are anxious to receive and too careless to give thanks. We pray for God's intervention in our lives, then congratulate ourselves rather than God for the results. When the Apollo 13 lunar mission was in serious trouble in 1970, the American people were called upon to pray for the safe return of the astronauts. When they were safely back on earth, credit was given to the technological achievements of NAASA rather than God Almighty!

III. **Ingratitude’s CAUSE.** (“...for his heart was lifted up...”).

- The **REASON** behind ingratitude— Pride... Selfishness... presumption... failure to recognize the goodness of God.
 - **Pride kills gratitude.** A proud man is an unthankful man.
- A. In pride, Hezekiah showed off all his treasures to the Babylonian ambassadors without giving thanks to God who provided them.
- B. **ILLUS:** Dr. Bob Jones Sr.— “I didn’t do this... God did this!”

IV. Pride’s CONDEMNATION. (“...therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem.”) The **RESULT** of ingratitude.

- I believe this is one reason why America is in a economic crisis—A spirit of **pride, ingratitude,** and a **lack of public recognition of our national dependence upon God.**

➡ From a speech by Abraham Lincoln on April 30, 1863:

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, the many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us! It behooves us, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

SUMMATION: Thanksgiving is something we choose to do. You can either take things for *granted*, or take things with *gratitude*. The choice is yours. **Don’t make the same mistake Hezekiah made.** Render unto the Lord according to how He has blessed you. To do any less is to invite God’s displeasure and the withholding of future blessings.