

Giving Thanks Despite Adversities

Psalms 30

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Psalm 30 : King David thanks God through praising Him

- Praising God as one way of giving thanks
- Why was King David so thankful to the Lord?
- Leonard Cohen: Jewish Canadian, his famous pop song – Hallelujah

[1] Learn from adversities/hardship

- David got to know God better through the adversities he experienced
- Ps.30:3, 5 – ³You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.
⁵For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.
- David's adversities might be due to his enemies, or due to himself

Psalm 30 - ⁶When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken." ⁷LORD, when you favoured me, you made my royal mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed... ⁸to the Lord I cried for mercy.

- David: the man after God's heart?
- Admitting his sins, and repenting in actions



Puritans' pilgrimage to a new land

- Foreseeing persecutions in England, moved to Holland, then sailed to America, arriving in Cape Cod, MA; landed on-shore Nov. 21, 1620.
- Life in a New Land: seeking religious freedom, living out according to Bible
- signed Mayflower Compact, vowing to live for the glory of God and for advancement of the Christian faith, before settling in Plymouth MA
- Immigrants of Canada
- New life of Christians

Job's tragedies as illustrations for Christians

- His 3 friends' erroneous judgments: Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar
- Job 42:5 - My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.
- J Hudson Taylor: "All God's giants have been weak men"
- Thanks to the Lord, many people come to be saved by Christ Jesus at times of crisis when they realize they have despised God in the past.

A friend of mine heard from his doctor:
“Your wife has got Dementia”

Dr. Erwin Lutzer, as senior pastor of Moody Memorial Church (Chicago) said:

“It is the love from the body of Christ that the broken-hearted need the most.

The church is the spiritual hospital that the spiritually shipwrecked should need.”

[2] Be thankful for God's faithfulness

- ²LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.
- ³You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.
- ⁹“What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit? ...Will it proclaim your faithfulness” ?

King Hezekiah experienced God's faithfulness

Isaiah 38

- ²Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,
- ³“Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.”
- ¹⁶“Lord, you restored me to health and let me live.”

- ¹⁷“Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.
¹⁸For the grave cannot praise you, death cannot sing your praise; those who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness.”

**If God, in His wisdom & justice, turns from us,
it will be the greatest folly if we turn from Him.
So, let us learn to pray in the dark.**

[3] Live out a thankful life

- Psalm 30: ⁴Sing the praises of the LORD, you His faithful people; praise His holy name.
- ¹¹You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth, clothed me with joy,
- ¹²that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever (ESV/KJV/ NIV)

Thankful because of Jesus Christ's awesome love
for sinners like us, forgiving sinners even when
He was crucified on the cross.

A thankful life

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**willing to offer/give to others,
rather than to get/take from somebody else**