An Attitude of Gratitude

Greg Kline · 1 Kings 21:1–29

INTRODUCTION

- This morning, perhaps unsurprisingly, I'd like to speak about an attitude of gratitude.
- Ingratitude looks really bad. It looks really silly when it's in other people.
- My attitude belies the same heart problem that Ahab had. That is to say, sometimes I might be tempted and sometimes give in to the temptation to think I deserve better.

1 A Lack of Gratitude Leads to Dark Places

1 Kings 21:1–16; Leviticus 25:23; 1 Kings 21:17–29

- I want to emphasize the word more because this is a king who had plenty.
- The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine, for you are strangers and sojourners with me.
- We see it's for one reason and one reason alone, and it's because Ahab didn't get what he wanted.
- God sees into the hearts, he knows our actions, and he will judge us accordingly.
- Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days.
- Even with this wicked, vile man Ahab, if we will repent, God will hear.

2 Recognize God as the Source of All Blessings

Romans 1:18–28

- We have to recognize God as the source of all blessings, because if we don't, our path is just like Ahab's.
- For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him. But they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
- And three times in this text, in verse 24, in verse 26, in verse 28, God gave them up.
- It's about trusting in and fully appreciating what God has done.
- We need to remember in this life what we have belongs to God. We're simply stewards over it.

3 We Must Learn to Be Content

Philippians 4:10–13; Luke 9:23

- For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound.
- Isn't thankfulness and content the very opposite of greed?
- If it can happen to Ahab and Jezebel, and the faith is not once saved, always saved, it can happen to me.
- If we're going to learn to be content, we need to realize what we have been blessed with. And that means counting our blessings.
- Jesus says in Luke 9 and verse 23, to deny ourselves daily and take up our cross and follow after him.

4 Focus on What Does Matter

Colossians 3:1–4

- Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
- Ahab was focused on the things beneath. He was focused on physical things that he saw, he wanted, and so he took.
- Because we know we have something better. Our minds need to be on that better.

5 We Need to Be the One

Luke 17:11–19

- 90% of those involved in the story, outside of Jesus the Christ himself, were not thankful. But one was.
- Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks.
- There's nothing easy about being content and being thankful, especially in a world where everyone is not thankful.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **We need to be content. We need to be thankful. We need to have an attitude of gratitude.**

MY NOTES