Grateful Heart

Greg Kline · 1 Kings 21:1–29

INTRODUCTION

- As Christians, we should be thankful, we should be grateful because we have a great God.
- The need, the necessity, the expectation that Christians, children of God have a grateful heart.

1 Ahab's Ungrateful Heart

1 Kings 21:1–16; 1 Kings 21:17–29

- King Ahab lived pretty well as king of Israel or Samaria. And yet it wasn't enough. He wasn't thankful for what he had.
- This entire train was set in motion, not because Jezebel exists, not because of the kings of the city went along with this plan, but because Ahab didn't get what he wanted.
- When we act wickedly, when we act in sinful ways against or hostile to our God, we do so on the same basis. Because we're obviously not thankful for what God has done for us.
- God sees the selfishness. He sees the ungrateful heart. He sees how his people reject what they have been blessed with.

2 Always Give Glory to God

Romans 1:20–28; Genesis 39

- 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.
- We must always give glory to God.
- If we remember what God has done for us and recognize that He is in control, that He is in charge, we can cast our worries, our doubts, our concerns on Him.
- We should be thankful every day, even if nothing else goes our way.

3 In Whatever Situation, to Be Content

Philippians 4:10–13

- If God deserves all glory and I'm giving him glory, my life will change because I won't be worried and caught up with the things I don't have.
- I have learned in whatever situation I am in to be content.
- I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- Paul understood what it meant to be content because he wasn't living for this life. It didn't matter if he was wealthy, it didn't matter if he was poor. He was living for God.
- We need to be willing to count our blessings and recognize, as Paul did in verse 11, whatever situation I am in, to be content.

4 Let's Not Get Distracted

Matthew 16:21–23; Colossians 3; John 13

- Distraction is always the enemy of the child of God, and it is the enemy of being thankful and having a grateful heart.
- Get behind me, Satan. You are a hindrance to me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.
- What truly matters is that Jesus did die on the cross. And that he was raised on the third day.
- When we get caught up in this world and things we don't get that we want, or things we want that were taken away from us, we are distracted from what matters.
- What matters is loving God and loving fellow man as Jesus modeled for us.

5 Be the One Who Is Thankful

Luke 17:11–19

- 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.
- Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?
- The only people who will build others up are the people who first have a grateful heart.
- The secret to a grateful heart is right there. To look to God. Count your blessings. See what God has done.
- A grateful heart recognizes who God is, what he has done.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Count your blessings today. Let's live with a grateful heart.**

MY NOTES