Respectable Sins

Session Six

Unthankfulness

***HOOK***

Since last session, how did you do at trusting God with your discontentment and accepting God’s sovereign will?

If you became discontent, what steps did you take? Or, what steps SHOULD you have taken?

In what specific areas of you noticed progress?

***BOOK***

During biblical times, leprosy devastated many lives. The Mosaic Law required that a leper continually cry out, “unclean, unclean” while walking along the road (Leviticus 13:45). In light of this, what is poignant about Jesus’ experience between Samaria and Galilee? (See Luke 17:11-19)

Read Romans 6:6,17 and Ephesians 2:1-5.

1. What is a person’s spiritual condition without God?
2. What has God done for every believer?

APPLICATION: We criticize the lepers for not returning to say thanks, but God has done SO much more for us through salvation. Who of us have stopped today, and/or stop regularly, to thank God for our salvation and deliberately seek to bring our lives into conformity with those that would be worth of such a gift?

Do we take time to thank God for our salvation; a salvation far richer than a physical cure for leprosy.

According to Acts 17:24-25, why should we express heartfelt gratitude to God?

What is the EVERYTHING that God gives?

There is a warning and caution for us in Deuteronomy 8:11-14, 17-18. Read this passage and state what the warning is.

APPLICATION: Jerry Bridges writes, “Most people who read this book acknowledge that everything we have comes from God, but how often do we stop to give thanks to Him? At the end of a workday in your profession or job, do you ever take time to say, ‘Thank You, Heavenly Father, for giving me the skill, ability, or health to do my work today?’ Do you ever physically or mentally go through your house, look at your furnishings and various items of home decoration, and say to God, ‘Everything in the house and the food in the cupboard and the car (or cars) in the driveway are gifts from You. Thank you for Your gracious and generous provision?’ And if you are still a student, do you ever give thanks to God for the intellectual ability and financial provision that enables you to prepare yourself for your future vocation? When you give thanks at mealtime, is it routine and perfunctory, or is it a heartfelt expression of your gratitude toward God for His continual provision of all your physical needs?”

Do we find thanksgiving and thankfulness welling up and being expressed by us continually, frequently, and genuinely?

Is taking for granted all the temporal provisions and spiritual blessings and failing to continually express thanks to God for them a sin? Why or why Not?

What description of thanklessness does Romans 1:18-32 give?

Are we to give God thanks when the circumstances do not turn out as we had hoped? What does 1 Thessalonians 5:18 reveal?

What are some circumstances in which we would not FEEL thankful but are commanded to give thanks?

According to the promises of Romans 8:28-29, 38-39, why should we give thanks by faith even when a situation is disappointing or difficult?

***LOOK***

ASK: What are some blessings God has given you? Why is it important for us to thank Him for these blessings and make such thankfulness a natural part of our lives?

The simple fact is, we should have no end to the things we are thankful for. We should not have to think about it. We should not have to question, to wonder. Thanksgiving should roll of our tongues and out of our mouths from a heart that overflows from thankfulness and blessing.

ASK: Review Romans 1:18-32, in which Paul vividly describes the downward moral spiral of pagan humanity. In verse 21, what does he emphasize regarding thankfulness, and what conclusions might we draw from this regarding our lives? Our culture?

ASK: Where does the faith come from to believe and thank God even in the midst of difficult circumstances? Describe a challenging time when you were – or were not – able to give thanks. What did God teach you through that experience?

***TOOK***

How much has God done for you in Christ? In what ways can you be sure to take time each day to thank God for His temporal provisions and spiritual blessings?

Make a list of all the things are and can be thankful for. Share that list with a loved one.

Write out a prayer of thanksgiving to God.