

GRATITUDE VS INGRATITUDE

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INTRODUCTION:

By design God made us in His image and likeness so we would manifest His characteristics among men. One of those being gratitude, or being thankful people. Jesus modeled gratitude when He was here on earth. In the fall, man's heart changed. One characteristic of that change being ingratitude or becoming unthankful people. God responded to this ungrateful attitude with severe consequences.

INGRATITUDE

1. Defined: Webster – “Forgetfulness of, or poor return for kindness received.” It can also be defined as not valuing or appreciating what you have, or have been given.
 - A. **NUMBERS 21:4-5 (NLT)** – Rather than being grateful for their freedom from slavery, they complained about the journey, the food and their circumstances. Instead of focusing on God's past, present and future promised blessings, they focused on things they didn't like.
 - **NUMBERS 21:6-9 (NLT)** – Records God's response. They didn't realize God was protecting them from the snakes along the way. Their sin of ingratitude brought judgment and death. God then gave them a remedy for their ingratitude.
 - B. **ROMANS 1:21-22, 28** - Man was created to glorify God by manifesting His characteristics among men. No one modeled gratitude like Jesus. These people displayed ingratitude and were unthankful even though they knew God.
 - **ROMANS 1:22-32 (NLT)** – The consequence of ingratitude was a reprobate mind.
 - C. **LUKE 17:11-19** – Here Jesus highlights gratitude and ingratitude. Jesus emphasized the grateful one was a foreigner. Why? Because the Jews were to know the characteristics of God and glorify Him by manifesting them!
 - Jesus knew the value of gratitude. **MATTHEW 15:32-37** He focused on what He had, gave thanks and it multiplied. The disciples focused on what they didn't have, and limited God.
2. Ingratitude exposed.
 - A. The alarm clock. - “God's given me another day?” Or...
 - B. Taxes to pay. – “I have a job?” Or...
 - C. Driveway cluttered with toys, bikes, etc. – “I have children?” Or...
 - D. So many clothes to wash, dry. – “God provides?” Or...
 - E. Pumping gas in the cold. – “I have a car?” Or...
 - F. Tight fitting clothes. – “Plenty of food?” Or...
 - G. Singing off key. – “I can hear?” Or...
 - H. Long Christmas list. – “I have family and friends?” Or...
 - I. My arm hurts. – “I have an arm?” Or...

CONCLUSION: COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 – One who has received Christ, is rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith is to abound with thanksgiving. How grateful are we to God for all He has done for us in Christ? Gratitude is all about focus. It's shifting our focus from what we don't have to what we do have. It's also about perspective or how we see things. “My husband or wife snores” or “thank God for a loving husband or wife.”