

"Being the Difference" Gratitude Don Williams- September 10, 2023

The pathway to making a difference is by first being the difference.

Hebrews 12:1-3

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the **founder and perfecter of our faith...**"

We are grateful so we give thanks.

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." ~ William Arthur Ward

Luke 22:17-19

After taking the cup, He **gave thanks** and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹ And He took bread, **gave thanks** and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

John 11:41

"So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I **thank You** that You have heard Me."

Matthew 15:36

"Then He took the seven loaves and the fish, and when He had **given thanks**, He broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people."

Luke 17:11-19

"Now on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As He was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met Him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When He saw them, He said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when He saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and **thanked Him**—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then He said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

#1- Practicing gratitude will make you different

Psalm 91:1

"It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Ephesians 5:20

"giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

#2- The more we grasp what God has done for us the more we will grow in gratitude

#3- We can get so excited about the gift of God that we forget to thank the giver of the gift.

James 1:17

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

Everything that is good in our lives can be traced back to God.

Gratitude turns what we have into enough.

Growing in Gratitude

- 1) Begin your day with thanksgiving
- 2) Be specific in your thanksgiving