

0 (0s):

Story. And we are going to be in lost and found our series week five. Next week is going to be the last message in this series. So if you do have a Bible, go ahead and get to Luke chapter 17. We're going to be starting in verse seven, Luke 17, seven through 19. You can get your Bibles there, get out your smartphone. You can use the YouVersion Bible app. If you're watching online, just open up another tab, perhaps, and you can find the rise church Denver event in that app, which is pretty cool. It has the scriptures. You can take notes. Today's a cool day too, because it's Melissa and I's anniversary. Hey honey, happier anniversary. I love you. And did you notice that this was Melissa up here playing the guitar and singing? Didn't she do a great job. I know I'm biased, but I think she's incredible.

0 (42s):

So thank you, honey. It's our 12th anniversary and those are my kids. Well, good. I'm so glad that you guys are here today. So today our message entitled, the one who comes back, the one who's comes back. And if you're like, what does that mean? You you'll

1 (57s):

You'll figure it out, pay attention, get engaged, focus,

0 (1m 1s):

Stop doing all that distracting stuff. You're doing those of you joining us online. I know how it is. Let's focus. We're going to learn about the one who comes back and why you want to be that person.

1 (1m 13s):

Not too long ago, I was on my

0 (1m 15s):

Social media feed and I was kind of scrolling through it. And I saw a friend of mine, the guy I know he knows me a pastor. And he was pumping up his new sermon series that was about to start. And I was like, oh cool. And I look at it and I'm like, oh, that looks familiar. Like, oh, that's the same title of a sermon series that we did here. Not too long ago. I was like, oh, and I click on it even more. Not only is it the same title of the series, but it's the same book of the Bible. In fact, the same chunk of the same book of the Bible. I was like, Hey, we did that first. That's our idea.

1 (1m 45s):

You know, w we,

0 (1m 45s):

We make our own sermon content here. And, and that actually was an idea that Sawyer and I put together any of our stuff. That's good. It's from Sawyer. Just in case you guys know our associate pastor salary trap. He and I work on a lot of this stuff, all the series that we're doing. And I'm like, we came up with that idea.

That's our idea. That's not fair for someone to claim it and use it as their own. Right. I should get the credit. That, that idea of credit makes us a little upset. Doesn't it? I think I should get the credit for my idea, for my work, what I have contributed. I should get credit for it. We all feel that way. And I think that's just natural for us to, to respond that way, because we want that credit. And, and what I have found is it causes actually a lot of issues.

0 (2m 26s):

If you really think about it, it causes a lot of issues in the workplace. Sometimes in families and in churches, it can cause issues in our society. Even we have rules and laws that we put in place to protect people and their ideas so that they get credit. Right? If you're in school and you use somebody else's stuff,

1 (2m 44s):

What is it called? Plagiarism. You could get,

0 (2m 47s):

You could fail. You could be expelled. If you're a professional and do it, you you'd be fired for stealing someone else's ideas. We copyright music. Even comedians are mad when someone, their jokes,

1 (3m 0s):

Right? We see this all around

0 (3m 2s):

Us. There's there's lawyers, there's patents, there's litigation all happening because that's my idea. That's my thing. I did the work. I should deserve credit. Everybody's fighting about it. Even the generations fight, the older generation looks at the younger one and said, you guys haven't worked enough to earn it yet. You guys, you guys are so self-centered. Yeah. It's

1 (3m 21s):

All about you. You're entitled. That's what the older generation says, right? You haven't, you learned it yet.

0 (3m 28s):

You haven't worked hard enough yet. The younger generation is saying, you're just saying that because of your privilege, right? Okay. That there's these. Because, because you think you earned it, but you had it so much easier than we do, right. And everybody's fighting to get credit for the work that they've put in. It causes issues in our society, political issues about who gets credit. Is it the government or is it the small business owner everybody's fighting about? Who gets credit? It causes so many issues because we're so focused on our selves. But what we're going to learn today is that we've got that all backwards. That idea of do I get the credit that I need? We've got it backwards.

2 (4m 5s):

We're looking at it wrong. And we really are lost

0 (4m 7s):

In our mindset about this. And Jesus is going to help us become found and teach us that, Hey, we've got that completely backwards. If you're worried about whether you get the credit or not,

1 (4m 16s):

You've got it backwards. And

0 (4m 18s):

The reason is, is because that same mindset infiltrates and infects

1 (4m 23s):

Our relationship with God. We do this because when we work hard,

0 (4m 27s):

When we serve him, when we volunteer our time, when we give him our money,

1 (4m 30s):

We think, God, you owe me, look at what I'm doing for you.

0 (4m 34s):

W you might not say that out loud, but that's what we think. And that's why, when we're obedient, when we're living, like we're supposed to, we expect good things to happen to us. Like I, yeah, I've done made some mistakes in the past, but I'm gonna live good. And right now, and then something bad happens to you. God, why are you doing this? I deserve better. I've been paying my dues. Literally. I've been tightening. You should be providing for me financially, too. Why am I going through this trial? When I've been faithful, we expect God to pay us back. We should get credit. When we have served him so much, and that mindset, I really do think it infects our relationship with God. And we have to learn to flip that on its head. We have to learn to be the one

1 (5m 10s):

Who comes. It comes back, stay tuned for what that means. The one that comes back. So

0 (5m 15s):

If you have your Bibles, we're going to start in Luke chapter 17. And we're going to start reading in verse seven. As Jesus teaches us right here, he's going to teach this little short parable, this analogy. That's going to teach us a spiritual truth. It says in verse seven, suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after

the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, come along now, sit down to eat. Okay? We, most of us don't have servants. We do have maybe have people that work for us. Maybe even some of you have someone who comes and cleans your house. Okay? And when you're doing that, when they've been working hard, when you see them, Jesus saying it, you don't say, Hey, why don't you back?

0 (5m 57s):

Let me serve. You, give you a meal. Okay? In other words, the queen, when she gets home, she doesn't give a high five to her Butler. She's like, oh,

1 (6m 5s):

Good job. She doesn't do that because it's his job to open the door. It's his job to serve poor, right?

0 (6m 12s):

Jesus saying, this is the way of things. If there's a servant

2 (6m 15s):

Or an employee, they get paid for the work they do.

0 (6m 20s):

They shouldn't expect to be praised or get credit for doing what they're already paid to do. They're provided to do. There's a great line from the TV show, mad men. And one of the younger ad executives is mad because she didn't get credit for her idea for a commercial. Don Draper played by John ham says, that's what the money's for? What you need to think. That's what the money's for. Right? You're getting paid for this job, do your job. And what Jesus is saying

1 (6m 51s):

Is in a sense, if you work, that's your job. It's your duty to do these things

0 (6m 56s):

You shouldn't expect to be served in return to be praised and returned, to get all this credit for doing what your duty is for living up to just expectations. Fascinating. He goes on verse eight. Won't he rather say the master? When he rather say, prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink. After that, you may eat and drink. This is your job to serve me.

1 (7m 21s):

Not vice-versa first nine,

0 (7m 25s):

Will he the master thank the servant because he did what he was told to do.

1 (7m 30s):

So you also, Jesus

0 (7m 32s):

Says, verse 10, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, we are unworthy

1 (7m 40s):

Servants. We have only done our duty. He's flipping the script. Isn't he? You think

0 (7m 48s):

He should get credit? She get praise for doing all these things and Jesus saying no, no, no. When you have done everything you have been asked to do, you've done your bare minimum.

1 (7m 58s):

You've done your duty. You've done. What's expected of you. Oh, you weren't expecting to hear this this morning. Some of you were like, Jesus said that. Yes, he did. He

0 (8m 7s):

Did. He said, if you have served, if you've done everything you're called to do, if you've been obedient, if you've served, if you've given, you've done what your duty is, you're expecting praise and adulation and, and a pat on the back. Oh, great. Great job out of boy. No, no, no. Jesus sing the master saying,

1 (8m 23s):

You've done your duty.

0 (8m 26s):

Now this is a different mindset. The one we have, right? Give me credit. I did it. That was my idea. Right?

1 (8m 32s):

And in this story, Jesus is teaching us

0 (8m 35s):

That we are the unworthy servants. See, we should have the heart

1 (8m 40s):

Of a grateful servant, a grateful servant, not expecting more. And if you

0 (8m 48s):

Really do think about it, yeah. If you really think about it, that's how God is with us because God gives everything we have. Did you know that? I remember in fifth grade I had to do a diorama project. Does anybody, anybody do those? When you were a kid school? Diorama's you build this big old thing? You may remember dioramas. I remember in fifth grade, Mrs. Brown's class, we had to do a space station, diorama, Emma. I was like, I was like, okay, I'm excited about this. I remember getting the cardboard box cut, cutting it. I put this like blue saran wrap on the front of it. So it looks Spacey as you looked into it. Right? And I spray painted it red. I got some rocks in there. I built this thing. I spent hours and hours over this weekend, making the best diorama I could possibly bring.

0 (9m 30s):

And I remember bringing it into the class on Monday morning, excited. I was like, look what I did. Nobody was interested in my diorama because there was another kid who brought in this really fancy, shiny silver thing that was, was big and perfect. It was like the greatest space station that a professional could

1 (9m 45s):

Make. Everyone's like, Ooh,

0 (9m 47s):

Ah, it got voted the best space station of everyone in the class. Do you know why I was upset? Because that kid did not make that diorama or hammer. You know, his parents were helping him with that thing, you know? Right. That kid did not make that that's professional level. Look at all the rest of our, like pieces of trash that we're putting together as fifth graders. Okay.

2 (10m 6s):

Anyone would know he didn't do it yet.

0 (10m 8s):

He got all the credit and I was upset. Right? In reality. We're like that fifth grader. Okay. We expect to get the credit. Cause all this great work that we've done. Look what I've done. Look what I've accomplished. I've done all of that. And God is sitting back and saying,

1 (10m 24s):

I created you. I called you.

0 (10m 27s):

I knit you together in your mother's name to be exactly how you are. I gave you a brain. I helped you think I put people around you in your life. I set you in the home that you grew up in, in the schools that you went to. So you could learn. I gave you your natural abilities. And if you're a Christian, I gave you your spiritual gifts.

2 (10m 43s):

On top of that,

0 (10m 45s):

I'm in the very air that you breathe. Did you know that every single piece of breath we take in the oxygen that goes into our lungs and it gets, it goes into our heart pumps through our veins and to our capillaries or whatever those are. Right?

1 (10m 57s):

All of that is from God.

0 (10m 59s):

Every breath we take, he is sustaining us in our life. If you think about it like that, we're like that fifth grader, I should get credit for this. And everybody knows mom and dad put that together.

1 (11m 9s):

Okay? Yeah. We want the credit.

0 (11m 12s):

But God is saying, I have done everything. Even the work you're doing, I'm putting it through you. You've done your duty.

1 (11m 17s):

You've done your duty. This is what Jesus is teaching us here. And, and

0 (11m 22s):

I think this is a mindset that we need to have because some of us get into this really it's a warped mindset, but a lot of Christians have it. It's that

1 (11m 30s):

God needs me. You couldn't do it without me. He needs

0 (11m 35s):

Me to serve. He needs me to show up. He needs me to lead. Look at somebody is not giving. I better step up. Oh my gosh. And then we get like upset at other people because they're not giving, they're not serving. They're not doing it. It creates a martyr mindset in a lot of Christians.

1 (11m 46s):

It really does. Why isn't

0 (11m 49s):

Everybody else serving? Like I am. But the reality is that God doesn't need you. God doesn't need you. He doesn't need you to serve him. He doesn't need you

2 (12m 0s):

To give to him. He doesn't need you to do anything. This is what the scriptures teach us

0 (12m 5s):

In acts chapter 17, verse 25. It says that God is not served by human hands as if he needed anything. Rather he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

1 (12m 17s):

God doesn't need. You

0 (12m 19s):

Don't believe that. Look what Jesus said in mark 10 45. He says for the son of man, he's talking about himself, did not come to be served. Jesus doesn't need you to serve him. There's a great song that has this whole idea in Psalm 50. And this is God talking in it. He says, if I were hungry,

1 (12m 36s):

I would not tell you for the world is mine and all that, isn't it. I don't need you to serve me to give me stuff. I don't need any of it. You weren't expecting me to say that today. Where are you?

0 (12m 49s):

After last week when I was like, you got to step up and serve in the kid's ministry, right? We need people to serve in our kids' misery. We need people to serve at VBS. And you're like, now I'm saying, God, doesn't need you to serve. A lot of pastors I think are, are scared to teach this,

1 (13m 1s):

This biblical truth. But it's the reality that God doesn't need you. He has angel serving him. He has everything. He can control the universe. He doesn't need you, but you get to serve him. You get to serve

0 (13m 19s):

Him. You get to be on his team. You get to give a little bit of the money that he gave you back. You get to show up and be a part of transform lives. When you serve in our kids, ministries, you, you get to be a part of it. I think this is a complete different mindset. I remember when I was in college, there was a band coming through that I really liked. I was excited. It was at a church. So they were looking for volunteers to help with the setup. What did I do?



2 (13m 42s):

I'll do it. I'll do it. I'll set up. Like

0 (13m 44s):

I would like rush down there so I could be there. I want to be the guy who can be the roadie, all serve. They didn't even provide us food, but I was there setting up their equipment being there just so I could be near the band. Right?

1 (13m 54s):

Has anybody done stuff like that?

0 (13m 56s):

When it's someone we love and we're excited about, and we're like, Ooh, they're important. They're special. We want to be with them. We'll even serve

1 (14m 2s):

Just to be near them. Guess what we get to serve the king of the universe. He lets us be on his team. He lets us show

0 (14m 10s):

Up and be a part of this transforming work that transforms lives and communities in the world.

1 (14m 16s):

He lets us be a part of it. It

0 (14m 19s):

Should no longer be obligation for us. It is now opportunity. When we realize that God doesn't need

1 (14m 24s):

Us. It's one of the most freeing

0 (14m 26s):

Good things that we can realize in our life. We don't have to be the martyr. We don't have to get mad at the people who aren't serving. We're saying, oh, I get to be a part. I'm

1 (14m 33s):

Sorry that you don't get to too bad for you. I love serving on this team. This guy, John Piper,

0 (14m 43s):

Pastor John Piper said, what is God looking for in the world

1 (14m 46s):

Assistance? No, the gospel is not a help. Wanted ad. It is a help available ad. God is

0 (14m 55s):

Not looking for people to work for him, but people who let him work mightily in and through them

1 (15m 2s):

God doesn't

0 (15m 3s):

Need our help. He doesn't need our service. He doesn't even need us,

1 (15m 6s):

But he lets us be used by him.

0 (15m 9s):

And one of the most amazing things is when we get to be a part of what God does,

1 (15m 13s):

It is so exciting. It is so amazing

0 (15m 16s):

To be able to serve people and see their, their hearts get changed. And they feel the love of God through what we do giving, serving, using our time, all of that active obedience.

1 (15m 28s):

It is our duty. And it's a privilege that we get to serve that way. Not so we get the credit,

0 (15m 33s):

But instead that God gets the credit. That's an interesting thing here, because even as we're serving, if you really understand this theologically, God is empowering you to serve. He's giving you the breath. He's giving you the gifts. He's giving you the opportunity to do all of that. We should give him the credit. In fact, I think that's why it says in first Peter first Peter four 11, Peter wrote whoever serves must serve with the strength, God supplies. So that in every way, God receives glory through Jesus Christ. The strength you have to serve comes from God tomorrow morning, when we're going to be serving at VBS, a lot of you are going to be serving here.

1 (16m 10s):

You're going to be exhausted. It's going to be hard. It's going to be wild at

0 (16m 15s):

The end of the day. You know that God gave you every ounce of power and strength to get through the day. And you should be grateful that he gave you that power. Cause he gets the credit,

1 (16m 23s):

Not us.

0 (16m 26s):

He gets the kudos. He gets the praise. We just get to be a part of it. And that's amazing. And I want you guys to experience

1 (16m 32s):

That. And

0 (16m 34s):

I think some of you need to flip your mindset here. God doesn't know you. He doesn't know you. He doesn't know you. Things going better in your life, the trial that you're in, he doesn't owe you something better than that. I mean his own son who served him perfectly had some trials to go through. Right? Why do you think you're any more special

1 (16m 51s):

Than that? Okay. There will be hard things. God doesn't owe you. You don't get the credit. He gets the credit always.

0 (16m 59s):

And that's why we need to learn to be the one who comes back. So what does that mean? Okay. What does that mean, man?

1 (17m 4s):

He keeps saying it. Let's see in this next story. Luke

0 (17m 9s):

Tells us in verse 11, that now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled. So this isn't a story anymore. He was teaching that story. Now he's living his life. He's going out to do ministry. And it says that Jesus traveled along the border between Samarria and Galilee. So Galilee was the region where Jesus was from up in

Northern Israel. These were his people. This is where God's people. The Jews lived. Jesus is a part of them. He knew these people, they worshiped God. Right? But then there was also ride on the border where they were traveling between the Jewish culture and the Samaritan culture. And the Samaritans were the half-breeds. They had been part of God's people, but they had gotten away. They had distorted the old Testament books of the Bible. They had decided not to worship in the temple, but to worship on this other mountain.

0 (17m 50s):

So they were like the half-breeds. They weren't considered part of the people of God. In fact, they were even worse than the pagans out there because they were distorting. The truth. Samaritans were not liked in Jesus's day. They were the outcasts Jews and Samaritans didn't share meals together. They didn't spend time together. They didn't marry. They didn't want anything to do with each other. I don't know who that would be for you today. Perhaps depending on your political persuasion, it might be Antifa. I'm not going to do anything with them. I can't believe those people. If you're on this other side, you might be like, I can't believe that person with a Maga hat. I will never talk with them. Okay. Our nation is kind of divided in some ways like that. We don't even want to associate with those people. I'm going to unfriend them because of what they like. Right? Okay. So the point is they didn't like each other.

0 (18m 31s):

You guys tracking with me, they didn't associate with each other. And Jesus is right there on the border between these two areas. It says in verse 12, as he was going into a village, 10 men who had leprosy met him. So they have a skin condition.

1 (18m 48s):

They're sick. They stood at

0 (18m 51s):

A distance and called out in a loud voice. They had to be at a distance cause they had a skin disease. And in those days, if you had this skin condition, you were considered unclean. You couldn't be around others. In fact, you had to be out like what we call as the leper colony. That's where it comes from that concept. We don't want to get they're contagious disease. They're impure. They're unclean. They're out there. We're in here. The lepers are out there yelling so that they can be heard by Jesus and an allowed voice. They cried Jesus master

1 (19m 18s):

Have pity on us. Notice what they say. They call him master, right? This is a sign of respect

0 (19m 25s):

Of honor. Jesus. You're the master. They're saying they're they're the servants. They're the slaves. You

master have pity on us. Now notice what they don't say. They don't say, oh, you owe us. We've been living outside of the community for so long as outcasts. We have, we are victims of this society. You owe us,

1 (19m 46s):

Heal us. Jesus

0 (19m 50s):

Master. We need you to have pity on us. Show us compassion that we don't deserve. That's what pity is. We don't deserve it. Help us. We don't deserve anything. We definitely don't sit there for credit.

1 (19m 60s):

Help us. Jesus.

0 (20m 4s):

In verse 14, it says that when Jesus saw them, he said,

1 (20m 7s):

Go show yourselves to the priests. And as they went, they were cleansed. They're healed of their skin condition. They had

0 (20m 14s):

To go to the priest because in those days it was Levitical law from the old Testament that if you had a skin condition before you could reenter into society, you had to get approved by a priest. Probably wasn't the funnest thing, but they'd have to strip you down and, and check you to make sure you don't have skin conditions, anywheres. And once the priest says, okay, you're good to go. You can enter back into society.

1 (20m 32s):

So all

0 (20m 33s):

10 of these men did it in all 10 were cleansed. They were healed. Their skin condition was gone. A miracle happened. They could reenter society that they were accepted again, that they didn't have to live. As outcasts yell at people from far away just to get somebody's attention. They could be there with people. This is a miracle that Jesus has done for them.

1 (20m 51s):

Verse 15. It says that one of them, one of them

0 (20m 56s):

Remember there were 10. So 10% return, right? One of them, when he saw he was healed, came

1 (21m 1s):

Back, praising God and allowed voice. He worshipping God. He is praising for 16. He

0 (21m 10s):

Threw himself at Jesus's feet, pure worship, pure gratitude,

1 (21m 16s):

And thanked him.

0 (21m 18s):

And Luke puts that little on it. And he was a Samaritan.

1 (21m 22s):

Remember he was on the border.

0 (21m 24s):

We didn't know if those people were Jews or Samaritans. They were just the outcast. But it was the Samaritan

1 (21m 29s):

Who worships God who has a heart of gratitude. And

0 (21m 33s):

What Jesus says next is so important. Jesus asked, we're not all 10 cleansed.

1 (21m 39s):

Where are the other nine? No

0 (21m 41s):

One returned to give praise to God except this, this foreigner. Then he said to him, rise and go. Your faith has made you well, see this Samaritan, the outcast, the half-breed was the only one who had true faith.

1 (21m 58s):

The only one who came back,

0 (22m 1s):

Jesus saw it at him faith to realize that this healing came from God, that he did not deserve it. And as an

unworthy, servant, as a humble servant, he comes back to Jesus to say, thank you. I did not deserve this. What's really interesting. I have it up here. That word made you well in Greek is literally the word Sozo and it can be translated as saves. I love the NIV. It's my favorite translation, but I think it gets it wrong here. Some other translations have it save that that word could be translated either way. Just like you're saved from a disease or you're saved from your sins. Okay. Same word in Greek. And in some places it does mean somebody is healed, but in here and elsewhere, I think it means this person has saved spirits.

0 (22m 41s):

Usually their

1 (22m 42s):

Sins are forgiven. Jesus.

0 (22m 44s):

It's used the same phrase with a woman in Luke chapter eight. This woman had been bleeding for 12 years. Does anybody remember this story? She'd been bleeding for 12 years, been sick for so long. And she just reaches out when Jesus walks by and grabs his cloak, hoping to get healed. And she is instantaneously. And Jesus says to her, your faith has saved you. Same word.

1 (23m 4s):

Your sins are forgiven. He spells

0 (23m 6s):

It very clearly in that passage. So here the same word is using. I think Jesus is saying your sins are forgiven. You are saved eternally

1 (23m 13s):

Based on your faith because you were the one who came back. Yeah. And I don't

0 (23m 18s):

Even think it makes sense logically, because does this mean the other 10 weren't healed, but it already said they were healed. So why would it say they were healed? But then this guy was healed. It doesn't make sense to me. Okay. Logically or did the other nine get leprosy? That seems kind of cruel. I don't, I don't think that's what happened. I think we're pointing out that this one, man, this Samaritan, this outcast as a leper and as an outcast, as a Samaritan, he is now welcome and accepted into the people of God. He is saved.

1 (23m 44s):

He's a child of God. Now why? Because he came back

0 (23m 50s):

And that's why I want to encourage you to be the one who comes back in faith. You return and say, thank you for all that you've done for me. Thank you. Because I didn't deserve it. I I'm just a humble lowly servant. You didn't need to save me. You didn't need

2 (24m 4s):

To use me why you did. Okay.

1 (24m 8s):

This is a heart of gratitude. God doesn't need you. He doesn't need you work. But he wants our hearts. Soon as you're thinking

0 (24m 20s):

About God, he doesn't need any of us. He has angels worshiping him, angel serving him,

1 (24m 24s):

But he wants our hearts. He wants us to return

0 (24m 27s):

And love and affection and gratitude to him for all that he's done for us.

1 (24m 30s):

That's what he's looking for. I just want your heart.

0 (24m 34s):

And that's why Jesus points out that this Samaritan is outcast. He was the one who is the example of faith

1 (24m 39s):

To all of us. Be like him. Be the one who comes back, be the one who comes back. Now a lot of people,

0 (24m 51s):

If you've ever heard this passage before, a lot of times it's preached like Thanksgiving week. It's like, this is the Sunday after Thanksgiving sermon. A lot of people teach this because Hey, you should go back and say, thank you to the person who helped you. That is a very important lesson. Okay? You should learn that. You should hear it. You should go say thank you. Studies have even shown us that if an employer thinks an employee that they're, you're happier in their job and more productive. Okay? So say thank you to your employees. It also says, this is one of the interesting thing in different studies showed that the,

1 (25m 22s):



The most, the, the

0 (25m 23s):

Sign of a healthy, happy marriage, the sign that was like the most common in all the happy marriages were two spouses that showed gratitude towards each

1 (25m 32s):

Other. Okay. So gratitude

0 (25m 34s):

Is really good. If you're a person to show your employees, to show your volunteers for us that are here at the church to show your spouse, you should say, thank you. It's very good. But this passage, I think that's kind of like a tangential thing. So you should take that. That's a bonus point for you today. Okay? Go say thank you more praise people say, thank you so much. Give credit where credit is due. Yes, you should. But what Jesus is pointing out. And I really think it's so important that that very last line, your faith has saved you. Your faith has saved

1 (26m 1s):

You. He wants us to be the one who comes back to God because that's what

0 (26m 6s):

This Maritain did. He, he was praising God and he fell at Jesus' feet. Who's God's own son, God himself in the flesh worshipping Jesus praising and God being grateful and thanking him. This is what we're called to do. That's what it means to be the one who comes back. It's not about credit for me. It's credit for God. He gets the glory always first foremost

1 (26m 27s):

And always be the one that comes back.

0 (26m 32s):

Now we've already kind of established this, but I need to say it again because some people look at this and they think, okay, so God needs me to worship him. A lot of people think that that's how it works. Like God created human beings so he can get people to worship him. And he's like, ah, I need more. I need more people honestly have walked away from the faith because they think of God

1 (26m 52s):

As a megalomaniac, he just needs praise and adulation. We've already established. He doesn't need any of us. He doesn't need, has angels worshipping him forever. Here's

0 (27m 3s):

A fascinating thing. I think God, once again, it gives us the opportunity to return and thankfulness and praise and worship

1 (27m 10s):

Because it actually makes us happier. CS Lewis

0 (27m 15s):

Talks about this in his book, reflections on the Psalms because he struggled with that diet idea. He's like, why does God need so much worship? And he says, I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses, but completes the enjoyment. It is its appointed consummation. I say this because when you eat a really great meal, when you bite into that juicy cheeseburger, you go, that's so good. Don't you just naturally comes out. When I see my wife playing music. Oh she's amazing. Sounds so beautiful, honey. You are beautiful. That's what we do when we love someone, we express it. Right? And when we express it, it actually brings the feeling to completion. You're happier. Once you've expressed it, it's a fascinating thing.

0 (27m 57s):

And I think that's why God gives us the opportunity to worship him. Because when we do that, it actually makes our hearts

1 (28m 2s):

Enjoy God more and enjoy ourselves

0 (28m 4s):

More. When we realize it's all from him. It's when we're so busy trying to get credit for ourselves that we're unhappy. I'm not happy. Why did he steal my idea? That's my sermon, right? That's my idea. My boss stole that from me. We get angry and upset when we're looking for credit for ourselves. But when we realize that God has given us everything, he has created us. He has knit us together. He has empowered us and endowed us with different abilities. And we see all those different things. And we say, God, thank you so much. Thank you for so much for saving me for choosing someone like me. And we express that in, in worship and embrace and say, thank you, God, we actually have our hearts full filled with joy. God lets us worship him. He doesn't need it. But once again, he gives us that opportunity to praise him.

0 (28m 46s):

And when we do

1 (28m 48s):

Changes our heart,

0 (28m 50s):

The cool thing. Once again, there's been a lot of studies on it and they, they do them at first. We'll talk in a little bit about God, but they do studies just on gratitude and thankfulness. And there's been all sorts of studies of this. And let me just read to you what some of the research has shown that they found that through brain scans, it's, it's the, the, the, the hypothalamus that is shows a lot of activity when people are expressing gratitude. So there's a part of your brain that expresses that. And what's interesting is that what they found is they call it an upward spiral, an upward spiral of positive emotions.

1 (29m 24s):

So you express gratitude. It makes you feel better and

0 (29m 28s):

You kind of you're spiraling up and then you express it even more. Cause you're happier. And then you get happier as you express it. And there's this spiral. The more we express gratitude, they have found in some studies that there are physical benefits to this, that people sleep better at night. They're more likely to report or I'm sorry, less likely to report health issues, aches and pains. If they express gratitude, they have overall higher sense of wellbeing. They're more likely to be able to overcome trauma from their past. And they have less harmful emotions like jealousy and anger and aggression. They have less anxiety and less depression just by expressing gratitude.

0 (30m 11s):

What's even more interesting. Cause that's just gratitude in general. If you just say, thank you, this is gonna make you feel better. But if you express thanks to God, they call it religious gratitude. Another study showed that it takes all of those things and it takes it up another level. They found people with religious gratitude who thank God for what they have. They are even happier. They have a better overall sense of wellbeing and less anxiety and depression. Got it onto something. When he asks us to worship him, okay, to praise him, to thank him for what he does.

1 (30m 43s):

I think God knows what he's doing.

0 (30m 46s):

William. I saw one of the old Puritan writers once said, if anyone would tell you the shortest surest way to all happiness and all perfection, he must tell you to make a rule to yourself, to thank and praise God for everything that happens to

1 (31m 2s):

You. You want to be happy. Thank God I wanna be praise

0 (31m 8s):

God. You want more joy in your life. Praise God. It's not by getting more credit for yourself

1 (31m 12s):

By giving more credit to God fascinating. Right? I think that's one of the reasons why God wants us to be the one who comes back it's for our

0 (31m 20s):

Benefit. Yeah. That doesn't need us to be the one out of 10 that says thank you. So I think that this should change our lives. I looked in my own own life. I was convicted of this. You know, I think it was like a year, a year and a half ago because every Sunday morning on my way to church, every Sunday morning, as I'm driving, I pray for this. I pray for you guys. I pray for our staff. I pray for our team, our volunteers. I pray that the holy spirit would move, that he would speak through me. I pray that God people's hearts would be changed. I pray for, for people that are sleeping. I said, God, wake them up. So they have to come to church. So if you woke up that morning, maybe it was God working in your arm. I'm not going to apologize for that. I pray every Sunday morning for all sorts of stuff. From the, for the, for the elevate kids, volunteers for cafe team, for welcome team, for the band to come together.

0 (32m 1s):

I pray for all of these things. I have this whole routine that I get through on my

3 (32m 4s):

Way here. But I realized something every Sunday when I was leaving church, what did I do? Listen

0 (32m 11s):

To music, listen to a podcast. I wasn't thinking God. And I was like, what am I

3 (32m 15s):

Doing? Because we have seen lives transformed here. We've seen

0 (32m 20s):

Marriages that are just like completely on the brink. There's no hope come back together. We've seen the broken restore. The loss found we've seen over 20 people over the last few months except Christ for the first

3 (32m 29s):

Time. Like there's amazing things happening.

0 (32m 31s):

Why are we praising God for these things? Thanking him. I need to be thinking. And probably more than on the way here, because anything that happens

3 (32m 36s):

Here is God working and we should praise him for those things. So I had to change what I'm doing in my life. What do you need to change? So I do every Sunday. Now I'm thinking, God, my whole drive home. What do you need to change

0 (32m 50s):

About how do you bring in that thankfulness into your life?

3 (32m 53s):

How do you respond in gratitude? Because the reality is that Jesus is the only one who actually deserves praise. He did everything right? When we fail, we sin, we don't serve when we're supposed to. We definitely don't give enough money. Okay? We're not as

0 (33m 9s):

Serving God as we should, but Jesus was perfect. He served in a perfect way. He was obedient. He never did anything wrong. And yet he didn't receive the praise. He should've deserved in this life.

3 (33m 17s):

Instead they cursed him and they put him up on a tree to die, but he died for us. Mark 10 45. I shared the first half of this verse says for the son of man did not come to be served. We already established that, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for me, see, Jesus doesn't need us to do anything because he paid it all. He paid it all and all to him. We all, he deserves a thanks, not us.

0 (33m 48s):

And so that's why we need to return in worship. We need to be the one who comes back to when it comes back. So would you please stand with me right now? I know some of you are going through some hard times right now. You're struggling. You're frustrated. You're angry. You're upset. You're sick. I don't know what it is. It's time to think. God, because you have something multiple things to be thankful for. I remember one night early on with our twins, when there's three nights in a row, I hadn't slept at all. The twins hadn't slept. It was, I was miserable. I was angry. I was frustrated. I was complaining.

3 (34m 18s):

And Melissa said, Matt, say five things. You're thankful for. I was like, no, I'm not going to do that middle of the night. No way. Finally, through clenched teeth, thankful over this. I'm thankful for that. I am that. I'm thankful for that too. And

0 (34m 34s):

By the time I got to the third, fourth and fifth things, Mike, my

3 (34m 37s):

Attitude had changed, right? Because I had gratitude in my heart. Right. And it

0 (34m 43s):

Changes our outlook on the world to realize, wow, we have more

3 (34m 46s):

Than we deserve. God has been so gracious

0 (34m 48s):

And grateful to us. So we need to be thankful to him. So, so that's what we're going to do right now. Okay.

3 (34m 53s):

We're all here together. And we're going to do it out loud because you gotta express it. You gotta express it. If you want the full fulfillment of that joy. So I'm

0 (35m 1s):

Gonna count down from 3, 3, 2, 1. And then when I do that, I want you to all say out loud, something that you're thankful for.

3 (35m 7s):

Can we do this? Okay. 3, 2, 1. That was okay. Let's try it again. Let's do a second thing. 3, 2, 1. Okay. That's good. That's

2 (35m 21s):

L I, it was a little better now. Let's say it a little bit louder. Okay. Are we really thankful? Let's tell God.

3 (35m 26s):

3, 2, 1. Okay. That's good. I like it. Okay. Maybe, maybe do a couple more times. Let's do it again. 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1, Lord, God. We are so grateful for all the things you've given us. Way more than we deserve. We are blessed beyond

0 (35m 46s):

Measure that you have chosen us. That you've loved us, that you have brought us together in community as a church Lord, that, that you offered your salvation to us through your son. Jesus Christ. We are the ones who are coming back right now. Help us to come back again and again and again, to praise you

3 (35m 59s):

To worship you, to not look

0 (36m 1s):

For credit for ourselves, but always give the credit to you.

3 (36m 4s):

Lord God, we worship you and your son. Jesus, who is the king of Kings. Let's praise God together.