

PLEASE SORRY THANKS

Please, Sorry, Thanks: Living from a Place of Gratitude

April 30, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: John 6:11, Numbers 11:4-6, James 1:17

Sermon Overview: Jesus took the loaves and the fish, *gave thanks*, and distributed to those, who were seated, as much as they wanted (John 6:11). Jesus' words of thanks became a self-fulfilling prophecy, creating what was to come: a miracle of an abundance of food to feed over 5,000 people with leftovers. Our words function as self-fulfilling prophecies. Nothing happens in the Kingdom of God without thanksgiving, as we must enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise (Psalm 100:4).

Sermon Series Questions:

1. How has God used His Word to change your world?
2. How have you used your words to change your world?
3. What words do you need to change or add to change your world?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. Reflecting on the little boy who brought the two fish and five loaves of bread, what have you, by faith, put in God's hands? What has God done with it? What do you desire Him to do with it? Can you think of another time that your generosity became someone else's miracle? Is there anything now that the Lord is putting on your heart to give, say, do, or bring to Him? What is it?
2. Your focus determines your reality. Is there a problem or a mountain in your life right now? What promise of God speaks to this problem in your life? How can you change your words so that your focus becomes God and His promise rather than the problem?
3. Read Luke 17:11-19 about the leper that returned to thank Jesus. Why do you think the other lepers did not give thanks? What was Jesus' response to the leper that did give thanks? Can you glean a connection between thankfulness and faith that you might be able to apply to your daily life?

Digging Deeper:

- Read Numbers 11 and 14. In the wilderness, the Israelites romanticized the conditions of slavery and complained about the road to freedom. What was the result of the Israelites'

complaining? This week, pay careful attention to your words and note every time you have a complaint.

Practical Application:

- God's Word creates and blesses. Sing and pray the doxology this week during your quiet time with the Lord: *Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.* What new insights and places of gratitude do you notice? Consider singing it when you encounter difficulty or opportunities to complain. What other changes do you notice?
- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Make a Bible reading plan and/or gratitude journal a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Check out our upcoming May pop-up groups on our website. They are all listed at ncc.re/groups.