

CELEBRATION SERVICE

It Was The Lord

I. When we enjoy provision, protection, peace another year, we need to acknowledge The One from whom it came

A. In Jacob's journey we see God's goodness in demonstration-God kept him, sustained him, helped him

1. Jacob is embarking on 400 mile journey to Laban's house that is littered with opportunities to perish-Animal attack, disease, starvation-**Gn28:5**-Isaac sent away Jacob and he went to Padanaram unto Laban
2. On the first night of his journey God visited Him and promised to keep Him-**Gn28:13**-I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon you lie, to you will I give it, and to thy seed; ¹⁴And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and you shalt spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵Behold, I am with thee, and will keep (hedge, protect, attend, preserve) you in all places where you go, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of; **Gn28:15-AC**-I am with you and will keep you (watch over you with care) wherever you may go; **TL**-I am with you, and will protect you wherever you go, and will bring you back safely to this land; **WYC**-I shall be thy keeper
3. Each year of our lives is like Jacob's journey-It's littered with opportunities to perish and the only way to make it is for God to be your keeper-**Ps121:5**-The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon your right hand ⁷The Lord shall preserve you from all evil...⁸The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and even for evermore
 - a. He acknowledged that if he did make it back it'd be God's doing-**Gn28:20**-Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep (hedge, protect, attend) me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, ²¹So that I come again to my father's house in peace (safe, well, health, prosperity); then shall the Lord be my God: ²²And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house and of all that you give me, I will surely give the tenth unto you
4. He made it back home in peace-**Gn32:10**-I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and all the truth, which you have showed unto your servant; For with my staff I passed over this Jordan and now I am become two bands; **MS**-When I left here and crossed the Jordan I only had the clothes on my back, and now look at me – two camps! **CEV**-Two large groups of people and animals
 - a. God kept him-He missed all kinds of evil and didn't perish on his journey; He wasn't taken out by a lion, a bear or disease; He had clothes to wear, food to eat; He made it through Laban's treatment and Esau's hatred
 - b. Jacob didn't just make it back, he enjoyed abundance-**Gn32:10, Gn30:43**-The man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants and camels and assess
 - c. God owes us nothing-These things are by His grace through our faith
5. Jacob acknowledged it was God he kept me-As an old man he tells his family the reason I made it was because my good God-**Gn48:15**-He blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, The angel which redeemed me from all evil

B. We need to acknowledge that the good we enjoy comes from our good God-**Js1:17**-Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights

1. If you got to the end of 2021 in peace, you had what you needed, the devil didn't take you out it was because your good God took care of you-You weren't lucky and it was a coincidence or good fortune it was your good God
2. It was God-It was God who helped, it was God who kept me, it was God who provided for me, it was God who directed me, it was God who strengthened, it was who delivered me-**Ps30:1**-I will extol (praise, magnify) thee, O Lord; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. ²O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. ³O Lord, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit; **MSG**-I give you all the credit, God—you got me out of that mess, you didn't let my foes gloat. God, my God, I yelled for help and you put me together. God, you pulled me out of the grave, gave me another chance at life when I was down-and-out.
3. We shine the light on Him-We don't credit our hard work, our intelligence or even our own faith-**Gn14:23**

II. God tells us in His Word to set aside time to acknowledge Him and the good things He has done for us – Particularly when we come into a new place

- A. We are to bless The Lord for the good He has done in our lives-Dt18:7-For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; 8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; 9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. 10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless (praise, thank) the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. 11 Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: 12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; 13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget (oblivious, lack of memory) the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; 16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; 17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. 18 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. 19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. 20 As the nations which the Lord destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God.
1. There must be a reckoning in your heart about why you're enjoying what you're enjoying-You're in a good place, you've eaten, you're full, you have good houses, all you have is increasing-7-The Lord your God brings you into the good land
 2. When you bless The Lord for the good He has given you, you're acknowledging that it came from Him
 3. Don't forget God is the one who did it-It's easy to start crediting other things and forget the one who actually did it (I.E. I work hard, we live in a prosperous country, I was lucky, I was fortunate, coincidence)-V14-16
 4. You need to be clear and cautious about who you credit for the good you enjoy-It was because of my good God
 5. If you start thinking someone or something else did it, you'll stop paying attention to God-God's saying if you don't recognize that it's me, you'll stop paying attention to me and you'll start having problems
- B. We are to worship God and rejoice in all the good things He has given to us-Dt26:1-15-It shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein; 2 That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name there. 3 And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the Lord thy God, that I am come unto the country which the Lord sware unto our fathers for to give us. 4 And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the Lord thy God. 5 And thou shalt speak and say before the Lord thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: 6 And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage: 7 And when we cried unto the Lord God of our fathers, the Lord heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression: 8 And the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: 9 And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. 10 And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O Lord, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the Lord thy God, and worship before the Lord thy God: 11 And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you. 12 When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; 13 Then thou shalt say before the Lord thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them. 14 I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the Lord my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me. 15 Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey.
1. In our appreciation for what God has done and in our honor for Him we bring an offering-We're not paying for something, we are saying thank you not just in words, but in gifts of appreciation (Gn28:20)
 2. They recalled specifically how God had been good to them-V5-V9
 3. They released faith for more help-Before they did that they thanked God for what He had done

III. Acknowledging and thanking God for the good He has done positions you to receive more

- A. How you receive affects what else you receive-**Mk4:24**-*Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given; **AC**-The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you; **Lk8:18**-Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seem to have.*
- B. God will not give to you that which you don't value-**Mt7:6**-*Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, nether cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you*
- C. When we don't thank God for His goodness in our lives it reveals a lack of appreciation or that we don't value it
1. You can disesteem the goodness of God in your life where it really doesn't mean that much to you-When you truly do value the goodness of God in your life you're thankful for it in both small and big portions
 2. You can actually trample on the goodness of God-Some of us are so consumed by what we are believing God for that we don't have yet, they we are actually trampling on the goodness God has shown us
 3. God will not give you more of what you don't value-If you don't value what God has done, why give you more
- D. How you receive His goodness affects how much more you receive-**Lk17:12**-*As he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: ¹³ And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. ¹⁴ And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? ¹⁸ There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. ¹⁹ And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.*
1. Lack of thanksgiving for the goodness of God in your life will cut you off from receiving more of it-If God does something good in your life and you show no appreciation for and don't value it, you cut yourself off from receiving more because of how you received it to begin with
 2. Before I go on into 2022 I got to come back thank God for how God He was to me in 2021

IV. Acknowledging and thanking God for the good He has done inspires faith for more of it