At All Times

11/21 & 11/22

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – Life is filled with twists and turns. There are moments when we are excited and filled with hope. There are other times when we are struggling with our grief and pain. The constant thread through all of these times is God. God is with us. He hasn't left us or forsaken us, and He never will. What is our response to God? It should be one of thanks, but we forget. We remember when things are tough, and God meets us. We remember when it is advantageous to us. The people of Thessalonica were struggling. There wasn't much hope, but Paul reminded them to give thanks through all circumstances. When we give thanks, we are speaking more to what God is doing than what we want.

When was the last time you gave God thanks?

What were the circumstances, good or bad?

How can we give thanks to God during the difficult moments?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for

November 16 - November 22, 2026

Is life filled with sunshine and roses? The temptation is to say yes even though the answer is no. We want to say yes because our faith should make life easy. The reality is we go through difficult times like everyone else, but the difference is that we don't have to rely on ourselves to get through them. We have a powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present God walking with us. When we recognize His Presence with us, we should praise Him and give Him thanks right then, but we think we will do it later. We think we will remember, but other things come up and take our view off of God and onto new difficulties. As we look through scriptures, we will see different people from different times thank God in the midst of their difficulties. This should give us the inspiration and courage to practice giving thanks to God when He is with us. ~ Pastor Seth

Why Is He Not Here?

Mon. 11/16

Psalm 22 – Have you ever felt totally alone? No one sees you. No one acknowledges you. You could be in a crowd and still feel the loneliness. Our first thought may be that even God has left me alone. David wrote this psalm based on his experience of loneliness. Jesus quotes this psalm as he is dying on the cross. We understand what the two of them are talking about as we wrestle with our experiences. There is more to this psalm than being forsaken. Every time David shares his struggles, he comes back to a time of thanks and praise. He thanks God for being with his ancestors as they left Egypt and settled in the Promised Land. God hadn't left them. He is the same today as He was then. It might feel like we are alone, but God is with us. David went on to share how he thought of himself. Then he shared how God was with him from infancy and wouldn't leave him.

When have you felt like David, forsaken?

When have you tried to give thanks when you felt forsaken? What was the result?

Grief and Joy

Tue. 11/17

2 Kings 2:1-14 – Each funeral is unique. Some people come to grieve and celebrate the life of a loved one. Some families come to grieve and commiserate because they have no hope. Elisha knows God is going to take Elijah. In the short time Elijah trained Elisha, they grew close. Elisha wanted to be with his mentor when he would be taken into heaven. As the time was near, Elisha asked to receive a double portion of God's Spirit. When Elisha saw Elijah going with God, he grieved and celebrated. He grieved as the loss of his friend hit him, and he thanked God not just for Elijah's life but also for the double portion of God's Spirit. There is something about Elisha's experience that speaks to us. We see that it is possible to grieve and celebrate. We mourn our loss but thank God for what that person left us.

What memories are you thanking God for?

How do you grieve and give thanks at the same time?

What God Has Done

Wed. 11/18

Isaiah 51:1-6 – Discipline is never easy. It is meant to teach us not to do what is wrong. It is meant to show us that our actions have consequences and that we should not repeat those that lead to negative consequences. Isaiah 51 was written when the people of God decided to be disobedient to God and to turn away from His call to repentance and forgiveness. So the people faced God's discipline, which was designed to lead them back to Him. God did not leave them without hope. He reminded them that they would return and that the land would be bountiful once more. The people needed the good news, but were not ready to hear it. They were struggling yet ready to give thanks.

If we don't give thanks, will God remove the gift He gave?

How can we give thanks in the midst of receiving discipline?

Thankful during Struggles

Thur. 11/19

John 9:1-41 – When the world seems against you, what do you do? Do you get a bowl of ice cream and eat your sorrows away? Does it make you feel better? Does it give you the strength to face the issues? In John 9, a blind man is facing a lot of pressure. Jesus healed him, and people brought him to the Pharisees. He probably came filled with joy and gratitude because he was born blind and can now see. He quickly realized that the Pharisees were trying to remove his joy. Their questions were more like accusations because Jesus did not fit their mold for ministry, and he claimed to be God's Son. The former blind man stood his ground, and his joy returned when he later met Jesus. We can draw strength from this as we lean on what God is doing, not on the struggle that is in front of us.

When have struggles snuffed out your thanks?

What would you have done differently?

Thank You

Fri. 11/20

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 – Who do you admire? What have they done? Paul writes to a church in Thessalonica that is persevering. They are being punished for their faith in Jesus. They are being discriminated against because they trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Paul hears about their struggles and wants to encourage them to keep leaning into their faith. He lets them know that he prays for them constantly. It raises a question for us to wrestle with: Who is persevering in their faith? Are we giving thanks for what God is doing in their lives? Have we told them how much we admire their faith in the face of their struggles? Have we pointed them out to other believers who can be inspired by their testimony and hold them in prayer like we are?

Take some time to check out Voice of the Martyrs, which shares the stories of persecuted Christians, and pray for the persecuted Church, giving God thanks for their testimony.