



Has this happened to you?

» Have you ever been punished for something you didn't do?

» Have you ever been praised for something you didn't do?

» How are *actions* related to *person*?



Be Thankful

Psalm 145

Psalm 145

» *A Psalm of Praise*

1. God is Great
2. God is Good
3. Let Us Thank Him

1. God is Great

» “Great is the Lord” (3)

- *Great – size; increase -> authority, fame*
(cf. *magnify* – e.g. - Ps. 35:27; Ez. 38:23)
- *Who (What) God is – infinite, wise, incorruptible, immortal, uncomposed, necessary, immaterial, etc.*

1. God is Great

» Splendor / Majesty (5)

- His *Glory* or *Presence* (Ex. 16:10; 24:17)
- “unapproachable light” (1 Tim. 6:16)
- “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” (Ex. 33:20)

1. God is Great

» Power (6)

- *The power of Your terrible acts*
- *Acts of violence* – e.g. – ten plagues, earthquakes, storms, pestilence, etc.
- Promote a healthy *fear of the Lord* (e.g. – Pharaoh – Ex. 9:13-17)

1. God is Great

» Timelessness (13)

- *Everlasting* -> perpetual
- *Throughout all generations* -> transcending and encompassing all of human history

1. God is Great

» Holiness (20)

- God, the Majestic, Powerful, Eternal King, blesses humble submission and punishes willful rebellion (cf. 6)

2. God is Good

» Benevolence (7, 9)

- *Abundant goodness* – see 15-16

- “...He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

(Acts 14:17)

2. God is Good

» Grace (8)

- “The Lord is gracious and merciful”
- “...Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.”
(Joel 2:13)

2. God is Good

» Compassion (8)

- “The Lord is gracious and merciful”
- The Lord *sustains* and *raises up* (14)
- Tenderness, gentleness, *pity*

2. God is Good

» *Responsive/Relational* (18-20)

- God invites men into relationship with Him, and rewards those who respond (cf. Deut. 4:29; Heb. 11:6)
- “If you seek Him, He will let you find Him.” (1 Chron. 28:9)

3. Let Us Thank Him

» Continuously (1-2, 21)

- “every day,” “forever and ever”

- Response to who God is (3) *and* what He does (9-10)

- *In truth* (18) -> *sincerely*

3. Let Us Thank Him

» Continuously (1-2, 21)

• *Extol (lift up), bless, praise, declare, meditate, speak of, tell of, eagerly utter, shout joyfully, give thanks, make known*

3. Let Us Thank Him

» Intelligently (5, 7)

- “I will meditate” – *rehearse; go over in one’s mind* – internally or out loud
- Not just His goodness and works but His majesty and righteousness as well!

3. Let Us Thank Him

» Fittingly (10)

- “All Your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord” because He deserves it!
- We exist to glorify God!

3. Let Us Thank Him

» Reverently (18-20)

- Call upon Him *in sincerity*

- With *Fear* and *Love*

- *Fear* w/o *Love* denies God's goodness

- *Love* w/o *Fear* denies God's greatness

“Who would not fear God who is of such majesty, power, infinitude, holiness? Who would not worship him? How foolish and how guilty to refuse to listen when he speaks, [to refuse] to come to him in willing subjection when he calls us to his service!” *(The Pulpit Commentary)*

So What?

» We must know God for who He really is

- Meditate on His majesty!

- The more we know Him, the better we can glorify Him

- The more we understand what He has done, the better we can thank Him

So What?

» Thanksgiving Service – Tues, Nov. 26

- Would you be willing to share some expression of praise or thanksgiving with the rest of us? (poem, song, paragraph, prayer, etc.)