

Pastor Bill Sass sermon-Sunday, November 22, 2020

Christ The King Sunday

TIME TO SAY THANKS

It makes us feel good when people take time to express appreciation. The late, great cowboy film star, and all-around good guy, Roy Rogers never forgot the people who make him what he was.

According to Zig Ziglar, in his book, *Something to Smile About*, after Roy starred in his first movie, he began receiving huge stacks of fan mail that he wanted to answer. However, his salary of \$150 a week did not even cover the required postage. He talked to the head of Republic Pictures in hope the studio would handle some of his fan mail. He was turned down and told he was foolish to think about answering fan mail because nobody else did. It took too much time and money.

Roy Rogers didn't buy that. It was his conviction that if someone thought enough of him to write a fan letter, he should have enough respect for the person to answer it. So, Roy Rogers took his show on the road. He traveled many miles and performed countless one- night shows to raise money to pay salaries of four people it took to answer his fan mail. No wonder he was so loved. It always makes us feel good when people take time to say thanks.

Most business people have found that performing little acts of appreciation is a good way to bond with customers. It reminds me of an amusing story that motivational speaker Bill Gove used to tell about a man named Harry, who ran a small appliance store in Phoenix, Arizona.

Harry knew many young couples who came to his store asking detailed questions about appliances would leave his store, and head for one of the discount appliance dealers to make price comparisons. Nevertheless, Harry would patiently answer all their questions, even though it took more than a half hour at times. But when the people would announce they were going to look around at some other places, Harry had a standard spiel to deliver.

"I know," he would say, "that you're looking for the best deal you can find. I understand that, because I do the same thing myself. I know you'll probably go down to Discount

Dan's to compare prices. I know I would. But after you've done that, I want you to think of one thing. When you buy from Discount Dan's, you get an appliance—a good one, I know, because he sells the same appliances we do. But when you buy here you get one thing you don't get at Dan's. You get me. I come with the deal. I stand behind what I sell. I want you to be happy with what you buy. I've been here 30 years. I learned the business from my Dad, and I hope to give the business over to my daughter and son-in-law in a few years. So, you know one thing for sure—when you buy an appliance from me, you get me with the deal. That means I'll do everything I can, to be sure you never regret doing business with me. That's a guarantee." Harry would then wish the couple well, and give them a quart of ice cream in appreciation of stopping at his store.

This is how Bill Gove would finish the story. "Now," he says, "how far do you think that couple is going to get, with Harry's speech ringing in their ears and a quart of ice cream in their hands in Phoenix, when it's 110 degrees in the shade?"

Often in the business world, when people express appreciation, there is a hidden agenda. Still, it makes an impression when people simply take time to say "thank you."

Our lessons from the Old Testament, the Gospels and the Epistles all have to do with taking time to say thanks. In Deuteronomy, God says to the people of Israel, "When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you."

A lesson in Matthew is about ten men with leprosy who were healed by Jesus. Only one took the time to come back and say "Thanks." "Where are the other nine?" Jesus asks.

And in First Corinthians, Paul writes, "thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" The gift of God's grace poured out in Jesus Christ.

Take time to say thanks. People who have a "gratitude attitude" are happier, and more effective in life. Take time to say "thankyou" to family and friends who do good things for you, and take time to thank God for the many blessings He has poured out on you.

After all, all good things do come from God.

We sometimes forget that, don't we? All the essentials for life come directly from God. How foolish we are, when we forget to say, "thanks."

Fulton Oursler learned the lesson of a grateful heart from an African-American woman who helped care for him when he was a little boy. Every time she sat down to eat, she would bow her head and say, "Much obliged, Lord." Oursler asked her why she did this, because the food was there whether she gave thanks or not. She replied, "Sure we get our vittles, but it makes everything taste better to be grateful. Looking for good things is a game an old preacher taught me to play. Take this morning, I woke up and thought, what's there to praise God for today?"

"You know what? I couldn't think of a thing! Then from the kitchen came the most delicious odor that ever tickled my nose. Coffee! 'Much obliged, Lord, for the coffee,' I said 'and much obliged, too, for the smell of it.'"

Many years later, Oursler stood at the bedside of that woman as she lay dying. Seeing her in much pain, he wondered if she still could find something to be grateful for. Just then she opened her eyes. As she saw him and the other gathered around, she folded her hands and said with a smile, "Much obliged, Lord, for such fine friends." There was a woman at ease with life. She may not have had much in the way of material possessions, but she had a gratitude attitude—and that was worth far more than richest pearls.

Bob Perks is a Professional Speaker, a member of the National Speakers Association, an author and vocalist. He tells of overhearing a father and daughter in their last moments together. Over the public address system, they had announced the daughter's plane was ready to depart. They stood near the security gate and hugged. Finally, the father said "I love you. I wish you enough."

She in turn said, "Daddy, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too, Daddy."

They kissed and she left. The old man walked over toward the area where Perks was seated. Perks could see the old man wanted and needed to cry. Perks tried not to intrude on his privacy, but the old man welcomed him by asking, "did you every say goodbye to someone knowing it would be forever?"

"Yes, I have," Perks replied. Saying that brought back memories Perks had of expressing his love and appreciation for all his Dad had done for him. Recognizing that his days were limited, he took time to tell him face to face how much he meant to him. So, Perks knew something of what this man was experiencing.

“Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever goodbye?” Perks asked. “I am old,” said the man, “and she lives much too far away. I have challenges ahead and the reality is, the next trip back would be for my funeral.”

Perks asked, “When you were saying goodbye, I heard you say, I wish you enough.” May I ask what that means?” The old man began to smile. “That’s a wish handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone.” He paused for a moment and looking up as if trying to remember it in detail, he smiled even more.

“When we said ‘I wish you enough,’ we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them,” he continued and then shared the following as if he were reciting it from memory.

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all you possess.

I wish enough “Hello’s to get you through the final “Goodbye.”

He then began to sob and walked away.

Let me ask you, do **you** have enough? Here at the throne of God, you can find more than enough to satisfy every need. That’s why St. Paul wrote, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” That gift is Gods’ grace poured out in Jesus Christ. Have you received that grace? If you have, this is a splendid time to say, “Thanks.”

AMEN!!!