

## THREE SIMPLE THINGS THAT PLEASE GOD

### THE PASSAGE

Hebrews 13:10-16/ Leviticus 16

### THREE SIMPLE THINGS THAT PLEASE GOD

(1) The sacrifice of **PRAISE**.

Hebrews 13:15/ 1 Peter 2:9-10/ 1 Thessalonians 5:18/ Daniel 6:10/ James 1:16-17  
Philippians 4:4-9/ 1 Corinthians 10:10-11

(2) The sacrifice of **DOING GOOD** to others.

Hebrews 13:16/ 1 Peter 2:11-12/ Colossians 3:17/ Matthew 4:23  
James 1:27 & Matthew 22:36-40/ Micah 6:8

(3) The sacrifice of **SHARING** with others.

Hebrews 13:16/ 1 John 3:16-18/ Ephesians 4:28/ Proverbs 11:24-25/ 1 Timothy 6:17-19

## Food for Thought for the week of August 12, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. Larry talked about it being okay to grumble to God. The Psalms are full of examples of David voicing his complaints to God. What can you learn from the following passages about what acceptable complaining to God looks like?

**Psalm 6:1-10** - (NIV) - <sup>1</sup> LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. <sup>2</sup> Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint; heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony. <sup>3</sup> My soul is in deep anguish. How long, LORD, how long? <sup>4</sup> Turn, LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. <sup>5</sup> Among the dead no one proclaims your name. Who praises you from the grave? <sup>6</sup> I am worn out from my groaning. All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. <sup>7</sup> My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. <sup>8</sup> Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping. <sup>9</sup> The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer. <sup>10</sup> All my enemies will be overwhelmed with shame and anguish; they will turn back and suddenly be put to shame.

**Psalm 13:1-6** - (NIV) - <sup>1</sup> How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? <sup>2</sup> How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? <sup>3</sup> Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. <sup>5</sup> But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. <sup>6</sup> I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me.

**Psalm 142:1-7** - (NIV) - <sup>1</sup> I cry aloud to the LORD; I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy. <sup>2</sup> I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble. <sup>3</sup> When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way. In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me. <sup>4</sup> Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life. <sup>5</sup> I cry to you, LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." <sup>6</sup> Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me. <sup>7</sup> Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me.

Is there a point where complaining reveals a real lack of trust?

2. One of the significant ways we "do good" to others is by how we talk to them. The Apostle Peter is a great case study on the use and abuse of words. Through his words he benefited many, and at other times did some serious damage to himself and others. Read the following passages and make a note of any lessons you can learn from Peter's successes, failures and his teachings about our speech.

**Matthew 16:13-23** - (NIV) - <sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, <sup>19</sup> and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades <sup>20</sup> will not overcome it. <sup>21</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be <sup>22</sup> bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be <sup>23</sup> loosed in heaven." <sup>24</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. <sup>25</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>26</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" <sup>27</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

**Matthew 26:69-75** - (NIV) - <sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. <sup>71</sup> Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>72</sup> He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" <sup>73</sup> After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." <sup>74</sup> Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Acts 2:36-41 - (NIV) - <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." <sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." <sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

1 Peter 3:8-18 - (NIV) - <sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. <sup>11</sup> They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." <sup>13</sup> Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats"; do not be frightened." <sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

How did Peter's awareness of the impact of his words change over time?

What do you think it takes to become truly aware of the impact of your words?

Jesus exposed Peter's rough edges, restored him when he blew it and worked through him in many ways. When it comes to your speech and communication, are you aware of any rough edges or areas where you need to make some changes?