

Lessons on Giving Thanks

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

There are three lessons we can learn from the Feast of First Fruits

I. A Lesson on _____

- A. Vv. 5-9 The offering of first fruits was made with a declaration.
1. The worshiper thanked God for delivering his forefathers _____ in Egypt.
 2. Then the worshiper thanked God for delivering them to the Promised Land.
 3. The offering is a gift of gratitude for what God did.
- B. Remember the story of the ten lepers from Luke 17:12-19
1. Leprosy was a devastating disease that isolated the sick from society and family. Outcasts.
 2. A victim was no longer viewed as human. He was "a leper" in society's eyes. (This is what happens when fear takes over.)
 3. Jesus delivered these men, not only from disease, but from slavery. The disease dictated where they could go and what they could do. It also dictated their standing in the eyes of society.
 4. They all should have been extremely grateful. Only one was.
- C. God has delivered you and me _____ many times:
1. He has granted healing in time of sickness.
 2. He has delivered us from grief in times of bereavement.
 3. He has delivered us from poverty by providing jobs and health to earn a living.
 4. For some of us, he has delivered us from addictions of all kinds.
 5. For some of us, he has delivered us from being outcasts.
 6. Most of all, He delivered us from sin and death through Jesus.
 7. Today is your chance to thank God for His deliverance from all the slavery that has or could have been a part of your life.
- D. But also, don't forget to thank God for delivering you _____ through the transforming power of Christ in you:
1. Freedom to live healthy, productive lives.
 2. Freedom to live confidently.
 3. Freedom to master your wants and desires.
 4. Freedom to master your sinful desires.
 5. Freedom to tell Satan to take a hike
 6. Freedom to face death with assurance and confidence, because heaven and Christ are ours for all of eternity.
 7. Today is your chance to say, "Thank you, God, for delivering me to freedom."

II. A Lesson on _____

- A. In the feast of first fruits, the Israelites recognized their dependence on God when he made his offering.
1. V 10 - "I grew this on the land You have given me."
 2. In giving the first fruits, he declared his dependence on God to provide further harvest.
 3. It reminded them not to take God or his gifts for _____.
- B. The disciples are challenged to depend on Jesus in Matthew 16.
1. Disciples were concerned they forgot bread.
 2. Jesus said, "Don't you know you can depend on Me?"
 3. He calls upon them to think of higher, more important spiritual matters, like eating the true bread which is Christ.
- C. We also need to be _____ that we depend on God for all our needs.

Matt. 6:25-33

1. Learn to pray "Give us this day our daily bread," and mean it.
2. God would challenge us to think of higher, more important spiritual matters. This is possible if we slow down and spend time with God in prayer and in the Word.
3. It's good to work for a living, (those who do not work, do not eat) but, remember, it's God Who makes it possible.

III. A Lesson in _____

- A. God expects us to rejoice. V. 11
 1. Think of all the good things the Lord has given you and your family.
 2. Ps. 9:1. *I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*
- B. Three parables from _____ that show there is rejoicing in Heaven:
 1. Rejoicing over a lost sheep who is found
 2. Rejoicing over a lost coin that is found.
 3. Rejoicing over the lost son who is found.
 4. "We had to celebrate." said the Father. Rejoicing happens when one acknowledges the blessings God has given.
- C. God expects us to rejoice in His _____ every day.
 1. Phil. 4:6 - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
 2. Cast your anxieties on God every day and give thanks every day and notice what happens to your attitude? Rejoicing will become a way of life.
 3. Rejoice in all the good things He sends.

When the Jewish worshipers came to offer their first fruit, they came to remember their deliverance, recognize their dependence, and rejoice together because of God's love and blessings. That's a good way for us to observe Thanksgiving and to live our lives.

Let's have an attitude of gratitude and live a life of thanks living.