

## **“I Will Praise Him” – Psalm 9:1-11**

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We have been looking in Scripture to re-discover the nine traits of the outwardly-focused Christian. Today on this Praise Sunday (Weekend) we look outward and upward to bring God praise for all that He has done for us. We look to Psalm 9 and we see David as an example of thankfulness & praise in this passage. We see his thankfulness shine through because 1<sup>st</sup>...

### 1. He was intentional

David says, “I will give thanks to the Lord”. “I will sing praise to Your name...” David makes up his mind that he will be thankful. He makes a promise to God that he will thank Him. David makes an intentional effort to give thanks.

Is this uncommon? No. As we all have taken to heart the teaching of parents who tell us to say, “thank you” to those who give a gift, or make a complement. Emily Post recognizes “Please” and “Thank You” as the two magic words, and she encourages parents to teach these to their children. One of the accepted rituals and blessings after a wedding, or a graduation, is the writing of “thank you” notes to express the appreciation of the gift and the thought.

I love looking at the paintings of Norman Rockwell. I love to see his paintings of Americans going about their business. I saw one Rockwell painting the other day that I believe many have seen. It was a picture of a restaurant, beside a busy street. The restaurant was full. The focal point of this busy restaurant was one particular table. On one end there were two men smoking cigarettes staring at the occupants on the other end of the table.

These men look as if they are hard workers, but they also look rough. There is a sense of emptiness in their hearts as they look to the other end of the table and see an elderly lady. She has her head bowed and her hands folded. Beside her is her grandson, nicely dressed. He too has his head bowed and his hands folded. They are saying the blessing before they eat their meal.

We say this blessing as an opportunity to say “thank you” for our food. We should not be out to show anybody anything through our prayers. We are not there to prove a point; we are there to thank the Lord. The discipline of saying grace is important because it is frequent and purposeful and can be habit forming.

But saying grace has to do with the attitude of the heart. A thankful heart is truly grateful for the meal about to be received. We must be intentional about our thanksgiving to God. We must take the time. We must make the effort; and we must make the habit of thanking Him. We must not take what we have for granted. We need to take every opportunity to renew your commitment to being thankful, to look around at what you have and thank God who loves you enough to give it to you.

But as we are intentionally thankful, we need to remember David was also:

## 2. Authentic

David says that he will thank the Lord “with my whole heart”. David is showing his passionate and genuine love for God. David is not just satisfied with saying “thank you” or merely creating a habit of doing so. David will thank the Lord with all of his heart.

Authenticity is something that we miss, in this day and age. Everyone seems to be searching for it, but our society is caught up in fantasy. We have lost some of the ability to understand what authenticity looks like. We must approach Him, thanking him—with all of our hearts. Pure and authentic. And why is it so important to be authentic and intentional with God?

David points to the fact that:

## 3. God is deserving.

David says, “I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.” And David saw the wonderful deeds: He had victory over his enemies. He was anointed King of Israel. He was given opportunity after opportunity to excel. Not to mention the riches that he was given. David thanks God because he sees God as the root of all of his blessings.

Each year, the Awards shows grace the TV screens across the country. The Emmy Awards, the MTV Video Awards, the Espys and the Oscars all take center stage as we anticipate the winners of best actor, sports figure, or artist. Occasionally, you will hear “I would like to thank God.” Typically, it is a quick comment—but it is there.

David declared, “Tell among the peoples His deeds!” We should make God the pivotal person to give thanks for all that we do. We shouldn’t be trite or disrespectful—but have that understanding that God is truly deserving of our thanks & praise for all that He has done for us.

From the dust he created us. It is him that we have to thank for our every breath. He has given us food, water, and shelter. He gives us our meals. And beyond that, God has protected us in times of danger. He has provided us victories so that we will be able to make a difference in the lives of the people that live in this area—that we can set the example and help them to live their lives without fear and that they may have freedom.

And He has given us Salvation. Through his son, who died for us, our debts were paid... God deserves our gratitude. Gratitude with all our hearts. We should all say, “I will thank the Lord”.

One of the biggest ways, we give thanks to God is by responding to him. We respond to him by acknowledging our position before him and our dependence on him. We are all fallen before Him. We are sinners. The Bible says that the payment of sin is death and by accepting his payment, of sending his son to die on a cross, in our place we can have this debt paid for and begin looking forward and being thankful for an abundant and eternal life.

In thankfulness and praise we begin to truly see what is being done for us and provided all around us by the loving grace of the Father. So this morning (weekend) and always we bring Him our praise, and pledge to make our lives one of thankfulness and praise before him. Amen.