

Scripture Reading: Dt 8:10-20
Message: The Fruit of Ingratitude
Verse: Ezek 16:49

Israel was coming into the land that God had promised them. It was excellent for both farming and grazing, truly a "land of milk and honey." For four decades He had provided their food, water, insured that their clothing and footwear didn't wear out (Deut 29:5), defended them and led them. They had to rely on Him daily. Now, they would have a much larger menu and set of options. He would bless them with prosperity. But our tendency as people is to seek God when we are stressed, hurting and / or afraid and to rely on ourselves and take things for granted when everything goes our way.

1. When things are going along fairly well, it is easy to get complacent and also self - satisfied.

- a. Trust God for all things (Prov 30:7-9, Phil 4:11-13).
 - Our daily needs (Mtt 6:11).
 - The timing of our supply (Mtt 6:8, 1 Tim 6:8).
- b. Realize the source of our prosperity and give thanks (Phil 4:6-7).
 - A failure to give thanks leads to self deception and rebellion (Gen 13:13, Ez 16:49-50).
 - It darkens our minds (Rom 1:21).
 - * Most people, when they think of Sodom and Gomorrah, are under the impression that God judged them for sexual sin.
 - * That was merely a symptom of their rebellion.
 - * They were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned for the poor and needy (Jas 5:5)

2. Gratitude should be our motivation for worship

- a. For our salvation (Lk 7:36-50).
 - The forgiveness of sin (1 Jn 1:9, Matt 6:12).
 - The accepting of His sufficiency in all things is an acknowledgement that He knows what He is doing and can be trusted (Phil 4:11-13, 1 Tim 6:8).
 - Recognition of His provision is our motivation for service (Rom 12:1-2, 6:13, 1 Cor 6:20).
 - Thankfulness for our inclusion (1 Pet 2:9-11).
- b. For His care (Mtt 6:8, 32; Ps 38:9).
 - Despite what we often think, nothing gets past Him.
 - There is a reason for all that He does/allows even if we cannot detect it.
- c. Our thanksgiving is for all things at all times (Heb 13:15).
 - All things (Ps 34:1, Eph 5:20, Phil 3:7-11, 1 Thess 5:16-18, for better or worse).
 - A mindset of dependence on Him (e.g., Phil 4:6-7).