



DATE	November 20, 2016
SPEAKER	Jared Petty
TITLE	Growing in Gratitude
SERIES	It's hard to be grateful when you're looking into the depths of pain, hurt and discontent. But the Bible teaches us to give thanks under all circumstances – the good and the bad. A familiar Thanksgiving story teaches us that a life of gratitude and joy is possible when we surrender to God's grace and thank Him for all the blessings in our lives.

“Be joyful always, pray continuously and give thanks in all circumstances. For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Introduction: Today we learned that faith moves mountains. That faith also moves us. And that gratitude is a quality that grows our lives.

1. Read Luke 17: 11-19. Discuss this statement: “As they went, they were healed.” What do you think is significant about this? What if instead of leaving, the lepers had waited for Jesus to heal them first? What do you think might have happened? Why?
2. Discuss other miracles where Jesus required people to act on their faith. How are they similar or different to this occasion? Can you think of times when Jesus didn't require active faith to heal someone? Why do you think sometimes he did and sometimes he didn't? How do you see both of these situations played out today?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:15 & 2 Corinthians 12:9. How do you think difficult circumstances can benefit? Can you identify a time when you've observed someone's weakness or where a weakness in your life demonstrated God's power? What was the result?
4. Pastor Jared identified 3 things that stunt our growth in gratitude. Discuss how they demonstrate themselves in the lives of believers. Which one do you struggle with the most? What has God taught you about working through these issues?
 - Jealousy/envy
 - Bitterness
 - Busyness
5. Read Luke 10:38-42. Discuss this phrase: It's easier to “serve God” than to “be with God.” How do you think it applies? How do you personally balance the need to be busy and yet, sit at the feet of Jesus?
6. Read Philippians 4:12-13. Is the idea that contentment is learned a new idea for you? Discuss ways you think it's true. Would you say you are currently content, discontent or somewhere in the middle right now? Why? Share personal stories or other truths in scripture that have contributed to what you've learned about contentment.
7. Read Deuteronomy 8:11-18, James 4:6. How do you think these verses speak into today's message on gratitude?
8. Read Psalm 103. As we approach Thanksgiving day what are some take-aways for you related to today's message?

Conclusion: Pastor Jared pointed out that true gratitude delights in the Giver and not just the gift. As you gather for Thanksgiving with friends and family, consider how you can best represent God with an attitude that delights in the Giver.