

DATE: Saturday-Sunday, November 21-22, 2020

SERIES: *LIVE: GRATEFULLY*

SERMON: Thankful in the Hardest of Times

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 2:5-18

[5] It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

[6] But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him?”

[7] You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor

[8] And put everything under their feet.” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.

[9] But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

[10] In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

[11] Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

[12] He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

[13] And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

[14] Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

[15] and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

[16] For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.

[17] For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

[18] Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted

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1. Is it possible to be thankful when times are hard?
2. Fear is what fosters the hardest of times:
 - The unknown
 - Sickness or spreading it to others
 - Job loss
 - Financial failure
 - Losing control
 - Death
 - _____
3. God created us to have dominion over all things.
4. By grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone.
5. The Savior has freed you from the fear of death.
6. Our High priest saw all your sins and paid for them--not with the blood of animals, but with his own.
7. Be thankful in the hardest of times
 - Remember to look to Jesus for your help.
 - Remember salvation is in Him.
 - Remember our suffering is temporary.

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2. _____ is what _____ the hardest of times:
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Lagniappe

In spite of it all

2020 has been a challenging year, to say the least. I don't have to review everything that has gone on, but from the pandemic to hurricanes, it's been tough.

That leads me to ask the question, "How do we observe **THANKSGIVING** in an environment such as this?" More than anything else, in this kind of environment we should be more grateful. We should look for every opportunity to give thanks unto God and to be a blessing to other people.

Let me give you a few suggestions about this week.

First, emphasize the things you have to be thankful for instead of what you have missed or lost. Spend time "counting your blessings" and thinking of the little and big joys of life.

Second, note the people around you who are struggling with loss of family, livelihood, or some other great tragedy. As you pray for them and their needs, you will begin to look at life through the proper lenses of gratitude and love. This will help make your Thanksgiving week much more meaningful and even more enjoyable.

Third, look for someone to bless and do so generously. If you have 'in abundance,' then 'give out of' your abundance. I am simply amazed about how I am blessed when I seek to bless other people with encouragement and generosity.

Fourth, don't forget to whom you should be grateful. Our gratitude should focus on God and His blessings. He is the giver of every good gift. All of the things in life which are good, and a blessing, come from him.

The Bible is filled with exhortations to give thanks and glorify God. The more we do so, the more we will experience joy and happiness in the days to come.

