

# For He is Kind to the Ungrateful

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Luke 6:35 - It is difficult to be kind to ungrateful and discourteous folk
  - 1. "Next time we prefer chicken."
- B. As humans, our interdependence puts us in one another's debt to be courteous. As Christians, we are indebted further to our Savior. But as in the parable of the sheep and goats, we do not repay our Savior except through our good works to our fellow man.
  - 1. Your Savior commanded you to thank, praise, and encourage others when they do well.
  - 2. If you can't or won't, you are either proud or jealous, both of which are attitudes that will cost you your home in heaven. You can be sound in all other areas, and if you fail in this one, you will be lost.
  - 3. William Ward wrote about discouragement called the Eeyore Syndrome. "Discouragement is dissatisfaction with the past, distaste for the present, and distrust of the future. It is ingratitude for the blessings of yesterday, indifference to the opportunities of today, and insecurity regarding strength for tomorrow. It is unawareness of the presence of beauty, unconcern for the needs of our fellowman, and unbelief in the promises of old. It is impatience with time, immaturity of thought, and impoliteness to God."
    - 4. Ingratitude denotes spiritual immaturity. Infants do not always appreciate what parents do for them. They have short memories. Their concern is not what you did for them yesterday, but what are you doing for them today.
    - 5. The mature are appreciative of those who labored for them in the past
- C. What obligations do those who receive blessings owe to the givers?
  - 1. How likely would someone be to continue to give if gratitude was not expressed for the giving?
  - 2. How likely would someone continue to give his best if his efforts were repaid with silence or indifference?
- D. Webster's Dictionary defines "Ingratitude" as: "Forgetfulness of, or poor return for, kindness received." It can also be defined as not appreciating or valuing what you have, or have been given. Unexpressed gratitude is also a form of ingratitude
  - 1. Andrew Carnegie left \$1 million for one of his relatives, who in return cursed Carnegie thoroughly because he left the bulk of his estate to public charities and left him with just one million.
  - 2. Samuel Leibowitz, criminal lawyer and judge, saved 78 men from the electric chair. Not one ever did bother to thank him.

## I. BE THANKFUL

- A. Psalm 92:1-2; Col. 3:15; Luke 17:15-19
  - 1. How quickly the nine busied themselves with the stuff of life after being healed! They never returned to the One who made that life possible.

- B. Jesus didn't give His life for the grateful only.
  - 1. Gal. 2:20 - Paul fought against Christ
  - 2. Eph. 5:1-2 - The Ephesians worshiped Diana
  - 3. Titus 2:11-14 - The gift, given while we are ungrateful and undeserving, is designed to move us to gratitude that moves us to respond and transform.
    - a. If you act ungratefully or will not graciously respond to others, you have not been transformed; I don't care how often you've been dunked in a baptistery
  - 4. Jonah 2:7-9 - Jonah understood this

## II. INGRATITUDE EARNS WRATH

A. Two travelers were going along a dusty road in barren country. High summer sun was scorching hot. They looked for some shelter from the heat when they came upon a tree with big leaves and branches spread like an umbrella. The travelers sat down in the cool shade and heaved a sigh of relief. After a few minutes, one of the travelers said to his companion, "What a useless tree this is! It bears no fruit at all." What do you think of the traveler?

B. "An ungrateful man is like a hog under a tree eating acorns, but never looking up to see where they come from."

- 1. "We seldom find people ungrateful as long as they think we can serve them or have something to give them."

C. Rom. 1:20-21 - Ingratitude led to idolatry

D. 2Tim. 3:1-2 - Ingratitude is one of the characteristics of the evil in the last days

E. 1Sam. 25 - Ingratitude cost Nabal friendship with the king, his home, his wife, and his life. "But he was just holding on to what was his!"

F. Psalm 78:27-32; Hosea 2:8-9, 13:6 - God does not appreciate it when His children treat Him ungratefully.

- 1. How do you think He feels when we treat His children ungratefully?
- 2. How should we respond to the generous gift of His Son?
  - a. 2Cor. 5:14-15