

Gratitude Looks Forward With Hope

Luke 7:36-50

3-part series on Gratitude:

- **Last Sunday, *Gratitude Heals Brokenness***
Our path to wholeness leads directly through Gratitude.
- **Today, *Gratitude Looks Forward With Hope***
Gratitude causes us to look to the future with hope.
- **Next Sunday, *Gratitude Releases The Giver In Us***

1. Gratitude and forgiveness are inseparable.

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little. —Luke 7:47

Jesus may be saying that Simon's capacity to love is directly related to his depth of gratitude.

Simon the Pharisee's lack of gratitude made him focus on the past.

Gratitude and forgiveness are inseparable, so are ungratefulness and bitterness.

Bitterness in the end leads to hopelessness.

- Bitterness requires you to live in the past.
- Hope requires that you live for tomorrow.
- Gratitude not only allows you to enjoy the present,
but keeps you looking toward the future with hope.

2. Grateful Souls Face Forward.

"But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead." —Philippians 3:13b NASB

What does your rear view mirror say?

(Warning: My memory emphasizes my past hurts more than joys.)

Or

(Warning: I may be perky, today—I focus on past blessings more than past pain.)

**Probably your whole life seems to be defined by less than half a dozen memories.
Some are painful. Some are joyful.**

“The grace of our Lord was more than abundant,”

—1 Timothy 1:14 NASB

Therefore Paul could say,

“But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.”

—Philippians 3:13b NASB

3. Gratitude releases us to reach forward with hope.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

—Jeremiah 29:11

Reach forward with hope and begin to dream

By reaching Forward with Hope:

- We open up God’s creative process in our lives.
- We cooperate with the Holy Spirit’s inspiration.
- We take responsibility for the future God calls us to create.

Memory Verse:

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