

Thanksgiving in Prayer

SINGAPORE YOUTH FOR CHRIST

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Introduction

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Meaning of “thanks”

- *yadah* (Hb) – to praise, give thanks, confess
- *eucharisteo* (Gk) – to thank, give thanks
- “thanks” (English) - express gratitude towards another for a benefit or favour showing an appreciation for a kindness they have done
- Key elements:
 - Acknowledgement
 - Response
 - Expressed towards someone
 - Cannot be demanded or commanded

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Five key elements

- The **object** of our thanksgiving
 - **Who** we give thanks to
- The **subject** of our thanksgiving
 - **What** we give thanks for
- The **reason** for our thanksgiving
 - **Why** we give thanks
- The **manner** of our thanksgiving
 - **How** we give thanks
- The **timing** of our thanksgiving
 - **When** we give thanks.

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The object of thanksgiving

Who we give thanks to

- Short answer – the Lord
- God as the almighty creator
- Our thanksgiving must recognise and reflect the creator/creature distinction
- 1 Chron 16:8-36 and Ps 100

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The subject of thanksgiving

What we give thanks for

- Short answer – Everything!
- God as the covenantal master
- Our thanksgiving must recognise and reflect God's covenant with his people and the master/servant distinction
- Deut 7:12-15, 28:2-12 and Ps 106

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The reason for thanksgiving

Why we give thanks

- Short answer – Gratitude
- God as the gracious saviour
- Our thanksgiving must recognise and reflect the saviour/sinner distinction
- Lk 3:15-16

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The manner of thanksgiving

How we give thanks

- Short answer – Humbly
- God as the holy sovereign
- Our thanksgiving must recognise and reflect the holiness of the Lord
- Pss 66:13-15, 96:7-9, and 100

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The timing of thanksgiving

When we give thanks

- Short answer – Always!
- God as eternal father
- Our thanksgiving must recognise and reflect that we are forever in the Lord's loving care and receiving his gracious provision
- 1 Chron 16:34, and Ps 136

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Two case studies

- Lk 17:11-19 - The thankful leper
- Lk 18:9-14 – The Pharisee and the tax collector

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The thankful leper

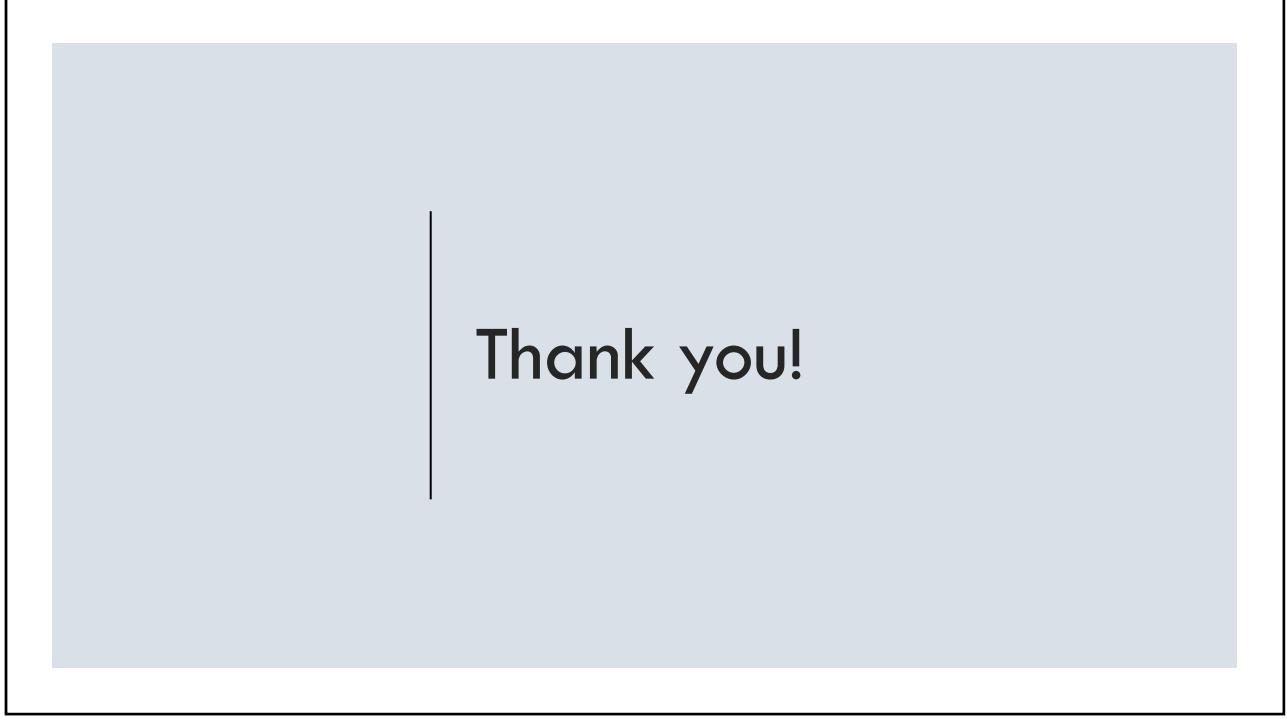
- Who owes what to whom?
- The one who returned – a Samaritan
- Misguided call for mercy
- Acknowledging the source of mercy – the essence of thanksgiving and the evidence of genuine faith

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The Pharisee and the tax collector

- How they approached
- What they said
- Self-righteousness and thankfulness are mutually exclusive

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Thank you!