

Thanksgiving Day St. David's 2010 Year C

Reflecting on the readings for today I noticed that even though they were speaking to an attitude to cultivate, there was also an action indicated. Let me explain.

In Deuteronomy the people of Israel are stating their history and how it shows God's steadfastness. In order to demonstrate how far they have come, they have to tell their Story of how they got there. Then, they are told to be grateful and bring an offering to God. Words, attitude, action.

The Psalm reiterates how we are part of God's family and because we are we should be glad.

It appears on the surface that the Philippians reading is all about what that old island song stated, "don't worry, be happy". I don't know about you, but that song began to annoy me when I would hear it and be dealing with difficult issues and people. But the reading is not saying that, it advises us to not worry but instead carry our worries to God with gratitude and He will provide the peace. We are to think on the positive side and God will be with us and we shall feel that way.

The gospel of John is about comparisons, earthly food that perishes vs. heavenly food that does not. And performing works vs. believing in God, and asking for signs vs. seeing Jesus as the culmination of God's promises. We are to be wise and chose that which will endure and not be shortsighted.

Joan Chittister explains that gratitude is a sign of our belief in God. When we acknowledge that we cannot do it all ourselves, and accept and appreciate help "we are saved from the sense of self sufficiency that leads to forgetfulness of God." "Our need tests our trust" she goes on to say. It allows us to accept help from others, and to realize we are not self-sufficient.

We can then understand and relate more to the needs of the poor and the pain in the world. Need shows us how little we really need to be happy.

So today, as we stop to say grace and express gratitude for the blessings we have, we need to remember that our words are not enough; we need to behave in a thankful manner and then move on that attitude. We need to look for the things that will strengthen us spiritually and not get caught up in the things of the moment. We need to acknowledge our blessings from God and trust Him to show us ways to show our love for Him.

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