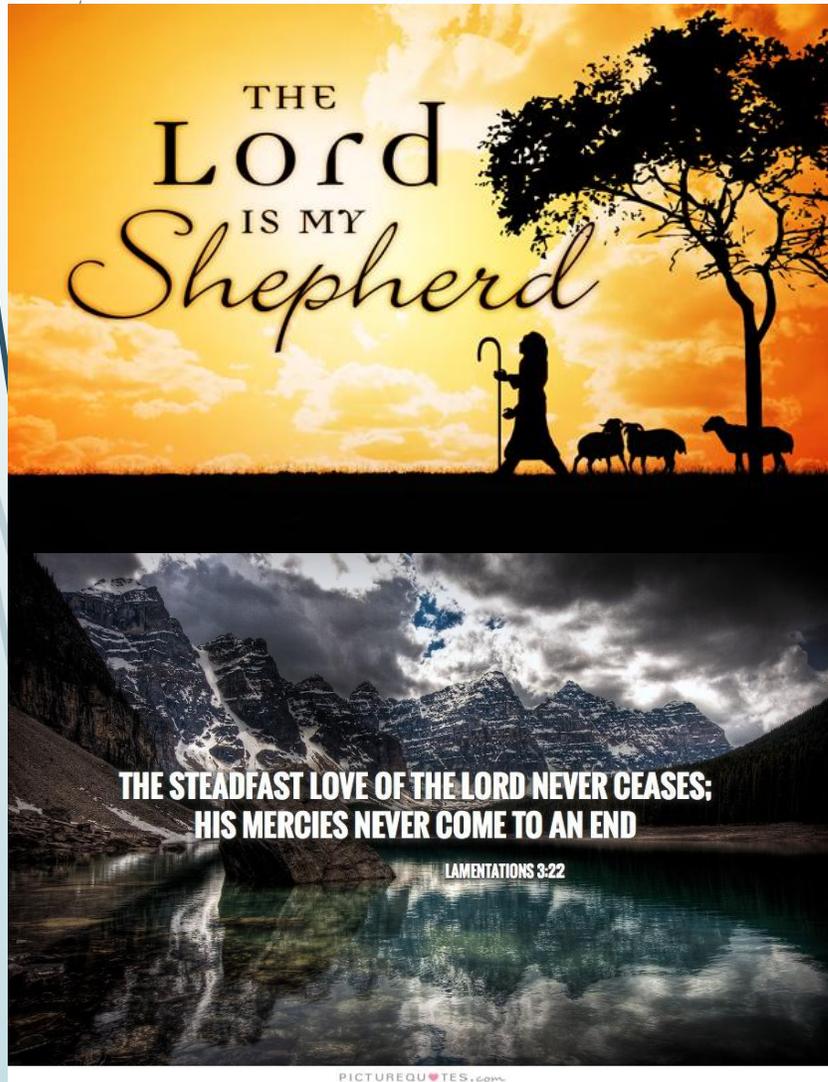




Why Don't We Give Thanks Thanksgiving 2017

James 4:2-3; Colossians 3:16-17

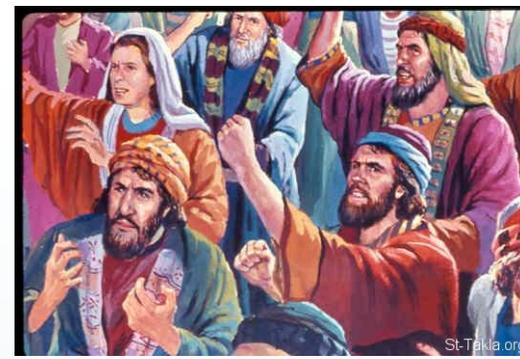
Why Should We Give Thanks (Psalm 100)



1. He is the God who **made** us
2. He is the Lord who **saved** us
3. He is our Shepherd who **cares** for us
4. He is **good** to us
5. His **steadfast love** endures forever
6. His **faithfulness** to all generations

All these things make sense...but why don't we give thanks more often??

Complaining vs. Thanksgiving



- In Number chapter 11 we see the Israelites complaining again, and not giving thanks for the **perfect** food (manna) that they have received
- It did not end well for them...
- We don't need Opera to tell us that **thanksgiving is good** and **complaining is bad**. But why do we complain so often instead of giving of thanks?
- Note: They were not even allow to complain since it was a **mockery** to God. (ill: Christmas gift)

1. We are Discontent

- ▶ (James 4:1-3) What do we desire and covet?
- ▶ We want to be more **comfortable**...
- ▶ We want what the **other guys** have...whatever that may be
- ▶ Thanksgiving is an expression of **contentment**—we should appreciate what we already have received, not covet what we don't have (1 Tim. 6:6-10)
- ▶ If you can't **happy** with all that you ALREADY have, what makes you think that you will be happy if you have more...no you won't



How Can We Want What We Already Have?



1. (James 4:14) Remember the current blessing will NOT **endure** forever—be thankful while you can still **enjoy** it (and it came to pass)
2. Remember the **joy** at the **beginning** when you first have received the blessing (Deu. 15:15)
3. Remind yourselves that **all** that you have **belongs** to the Lord, (1 Chro. 29:10-17) and they are **gifts** for us to enjoy and to bless others (1 Peter 4:10)

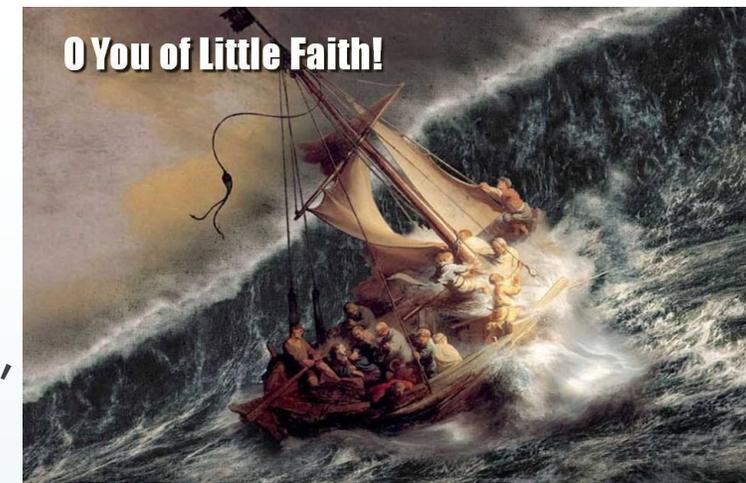
How Can We Want What We Already Have?



4. Fasting—go without the blessing for it short period of time to refresh your **appreciation** (Luke 5:35)
5. **Give it away** to others that do not have the same blessing, or at least **remind yourself** that many are not as blessed as you are (Luke 3:11; 1 John 3:17)
6. Forming a habit of “thanksgiving correction” every time you caught yourself **complaining** (ill: taxes)

2. We Do Not Believe

- (James 4:2-3) instead of asking God, we rather complain...why?
- Do we actually believe that God gives us the very **best**? (James 1:17; Matt. 7:11; Eph. 1:3)
- (Num. 11:4) Not just that they sought after meat, they did not believe that **manna is good enough**. (ill: holidays)
- This is a spiritual question: Do you actually believe that God is **good**? (Psalm 100) and that you can trust Him?



Let Us Give Thanks



- Are you **Discontent**?
- Do you actually believe that God is **good**?
- (Col. 3:16-17) Paul wants us to **sing**, not just to praise God in whom He deserved, Paul also wants us to **remember** that God is good
- Beside remembering, we should be **doing** everything in God's name and **watch** Him work in our lives—the only way to increase our faith in Him