CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

Gratitude Thieves

***Gratitude says a lot about me and God…***

*Be joyful always; pray continually;* ***give thanks*** *in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*  ***(1 Thes. 5:16-18)***

*There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents,* ***ungrateful****…have nothing to do with them.* ***(2 Tim. 3:2, 5)***

***Some common thieves that threaten our gratitude towards God…***

* ***Stress and worry –*** *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”* ***(Phil. 4:16)***

*Therefore do not worry**about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.* ***(Matt. 6:34)***

* ***Envy –*** *“A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.”* ***(Prov. 14:30)***

*But if you harbor bitter envy or selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.* ***(James 3:14)***

* ***Not at peace with God’s pace –*** *“When our fathers were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea…But they soon forgot what He had done and did not wait for His counsel.”* ***(Psalm 106:7, 13)***
* ***Spiritual entitlement –*** *“So they quarreled with Moses and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses replied, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?’…And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’”* ***(Exod. 17:2-3, 7)***

*But godliness with contentment is great gain.* ***(1 Tim. 6:6)***

* ***Grace amnesia –*** *“One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked Him – he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’”*  ***(Luke 17:15-18)***

***The first step back to gratitude: repentance…***

*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.* ***(Luke 3:8)***