



**THURSDAY 10.28.10**

**John 13:3-5**

Jesus just had a few hours left before the cross. He knew it! It was his destiny! In these last few moments, he found the place to throw a towel over his shoulder, fill up a water basin, kneel at his disciples' feet and wash them. The master was washing the feet of his own servants. Out of order, that first century world would say, but Jesus did not listen. He was ushering in a new order.

- As aspiring followers of Jesus — aspiring givers — the act of serving in this way has little to do with how much money or ability one has but everything to do with humility.
- What would change in my life if God came first, if my family came first, if the church and its mission came first?
- How would it change me if I abandoned all need to be served, to control, to satisfy my own appetite and began to serve, became obedient to God and sought to order my life around what I believe and who I believe in?

---



---



---



**FRIDAY 10.29.10**

**Romans 5:1-5**

What an amazing gift God has given, "Love poured into us by the Holy Spirit!" Think what life would be like with God's love for us, God's love in us and God's love through us. This love is not just a feeling. It is as tangible as the blood of God on a cross, the gift of God in salvation, the reality of a real heaven to come, the presence of a powerful need meeting God in our lives. In the Bible, love is tangible, a reality that changes the one who God chooses to "pour into!"

- How do the priorities you live by today reflect on your understanding of God's love in you, God's many gifts to you?
- What does your current giving reflect about your understanding of the pouring of God's love and spirit into you and your response to that?

---



---



---



---



**GROW • PRAY • STUDY**

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

**Series:** *Thank You*

**Message:** *Thank You for Your Partnership*

**Scripture:** *Philippians 1:1-11*

*Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:*

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



## Introduction

In this series we are giving thanks for you. These are the words the book of Philippians begins with as Paul writes, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." The church at Philippi and the saints in it (yes, Christians are called saints in Philippi) are receiving thanks from Paul for their life, ministry and gifts that were making a difference not only in Philippi but beyond.

Chapter 1, verse 3, celebrates that this church family "participated" in the gospel or good news of Jesus Christ with the Apostle Paul and with Jesus Christ. The church family seems to be more than a people who come to church or share the same membership but a people who partner with God and one another in faith, passion and mission.

In this first message of the series we celebrate the honor we have of participating in the Kingdom of God, the work of Jesus, the mission of the church we share. God gives us an opportunity, even privilege, to participate in the Gospel, a partnership expressed in many ways.

***God, there are many things in my life that demand attention, time, money, sometimes more than I have to give. Lord, help me stay on track with what I really believe: I believe in you; I believe in my friends and family; I believe in the church; I believe in generosity; I believe in partnering with you in life.***



## TUESDAY 10.26.10

## II Corinthians 8:8-9

Jesus was the most generous person who ever lived, and he is the one we have chosen to follow and model our lives after. And in the generosity of giving his own life for us, we find our lives. The Philippian church made a great impact upon the world, just as First Methodist Church does. Why? Because we have received so generously from God, model our lives after Jesus and find ourselves making a difference in uncountable ways.

- Why do you think that even though Jesus could have chosen a life of wealth and privilege, he chose a life of sacrifice and generosity?
- Human beings are instinctively selfish. Express an example of giving generously. What impact did this have on both you and the recipient?

---



---



---



---



---



## MONDAY 10.25.10

## Matthew 6:9-13

The Lord's Prayer may be the best known prayer ever written, probably because it is one of the few that came directly from Jesus Christ, Jesus who had a direct connection with God. He certainly participated in the Kingdom of God, the work of God in the world. The prayer not only teaches us how to pray, but it also helps us know what a partnership with God looks like.

- Why is it so important to value the coming of God's Kingdom, and in the same breath, to ask for God's will to be done? Do we look for the Kingdom to come in our own lives? Do we want God's will in us and through us?
- When we ask God to lead us from temptation and away from evil, how does generosity, service and worship help drive the answer to this prayer? We might want God's will and Kingdom, but do we want to live that will?

---



---



---



---



## WEDNESDAY 10.27.10

## Philippians 2:5-8

Jesus had equality with God. He had it — success, power, wealth, everything that is considered at the top of the heap — Jesus had. He was God. If anyone could have chosen to live a life of power and indulgence, Jesus had the ability to do just that. Instead, he chose to humble himself, became a servant and gave his life on the cross. When we make the decision to partner with him, participate in his Kingdom, it is a life-changing decision, one that calls us to downward mobility, serving rather than being served.

- What are some of the ways Jesus modeled generosity for his followers? How did this change them?
- What would it look like to live a life that was as selfless as his, and what would have to change first if you did?

---



---



---



---