

i am the Church - Gratitude

When we receive we may be thankful, but when we give or serve we are expressing gratitude. Gratitude is the tangible expression of thankfulness.

The separation from God that we felt when we sinned awoke in us the reality that the things we enjoy most can be taken away from us.

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3

Being poor in spirit may actually mean we are poor in life, more so, it means not being connected to things for meaning and substance.

5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. Luke 19:5-6

7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Luke 19:7

8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." Luke 19:8

The simple presence of Jesus made all of the riches of Zacchaeus worthless to him.

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house." Luke 19:9

"Am I grateful?" or, what is happening in my life that gives evidence of my gratitude?

How many opportunities have we missed to be blessed because we didn't give when we could have given?

Jesus died on a cross for our sins and we tend to live life as if "thank you" is enough.

Gratitude tells the Lord that you are more important than my stuff, Your presence is more valuable than my prizes.