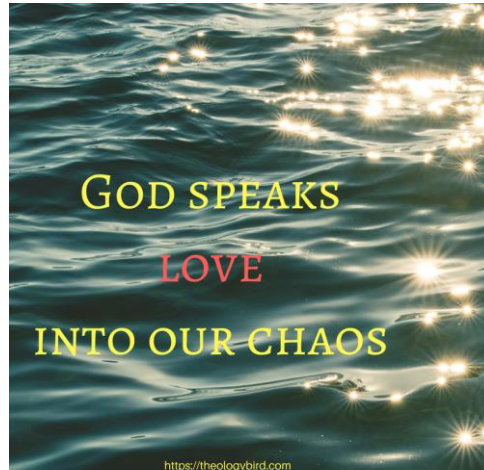


**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022.**

**GOD SPEAKS – CHANGE YOUR  
ATTITUDE TO GRATITUDE**

**Scripture: Psalm 50**



What sort of attitude do you come to church with? Think about when you woke up this morning – was it with joy and excitement that you could once again worship God with others? Or was it with a huge yawn and reluctance – here we go again, doing it out of habit.

Psalms is the longest book in the Bible, taking nearly 1000 years to write – but is so relevant to us today. The Levite, Asaph wrote this one – he had an important musical role in the public worship that David established in Jerusalem.

In Psalm 50 God is warning there will be a final judgement of people on earth and those who are just going through the motions will be punished. Psalm 50 is asking the question - "What does the proper attitude toward God look like?". If we read Psalm 51, we learn what the proper attitude toward God should be.

It may appear that the Israelites were doing everything right – offering sacrifices, worshipping, meeting regularly but that was only on the outside, appearing to be obeying God in everything. God identifies that their frame of mind was infecting their hearts and their worship. God didn't ask for sacrifices or offerings in order for Him to survive. After all God said to them – they belonged to Me first, they belong to Me now and they will belong to Me in the future. They are not yours to give. The

action of offering sacrifices was established by God to point to the coming Messiah and the forgiveness of sin that Jesus would win for them at the cross through His shed blood.

### **What was their attitude – obviously not gratitude?**

Do you believe you are the giver and God is the receiver? The right attitude is that we are the receiver and God is the giver. However, we should give to God – give Him our sins, our honest confessions and He will give us forgiveness through Jesus who won this for us at the cross.

Jesus' sacrifice flows backward in time – His shed blood offered forgiveness to the Israelites for their sins. Jesus' sacrifice also travels forward to our sins today. This is the heart of our Worship Service - it is Jesus' heart delivered as a gift to us today.

We often try to avoid the word sin or acknowledge that we sin because we want to believe we are good – after all we don't engage in anti-social behaviour, are outwardly positive, helpful and polite. But we are only measuring ourselves by societies standards – not the standards of God Himself.

### **Let's look at the attitude we hold in our heart for Jesus.**

Construction for the new train stations has been ongoing for months and it still hasn't finished. Cones, caution signs, hard hats, waving on, holding up traffic. Even though we understand repairs and reconstruction are necessary and improvements need to be made – we feel inconvenienced – our progress forward is hindered.

The mess on the roads is not so different from the mess of sin in our own heart. Piles of insecurities still need to be hauled off; unexpected obstacles test our faith. God's word acts as a cone that diverts us from harmful temptations that allure us and try to distract from our walk with God. God's intentions were to put the Israelites back on track and to put us back on track. He lovingly reminded them and reminds us that our hearts and attitudes need transformation.

Our hearts are under construction and when our construction zones are right in the middle of this sinful world and our sinful desires – it is no easy task. Thankfully we are not alone in this soul renovation. The Lord has given us the Holy Spirit as Project Manager over our hearts.

If you are feeling as though your heart is troubled or you lack an attitude of gratitude, like a construction site – don't lose hope. The Lord is lovingly tending to the repairs and improvements we need.

Wherever our roads may take us, we can confidently rest in the truth that when we meet Jesus face to face – we will finally be finished products made in His image, pure and complete.

During our journey, what does the Lord desire from us? A sacrifice of thanksgiving, obeying His commandments, calling upon Him in time of trouble. He promises to deliver us as we glorify Him. We need to be honest about our failings and weaknesses to receive His grace and forgiveness.

And we are commanded to bring our gifts to God to bring glory to Him. Our offerings, time, talents and treasures are for the benefit of our neighbours because through them the church is able to operate as a place of preaching, teaching and sharing the Gospel of Jesus.

Let's not fall into the trap that the Israelites did – play at being a follower of Christ, but it is just for show. We may fall into the same pattern when we participate in religious activities, tithe or attend church out of habit or conformity, rather than out of heartfelt love and obedience.

God wants righteousness, not empty ritual. Outward acts of kindness to other people do not make us good while we turn from our Maker. This is the nature of sin – which is rebellion against God. Any attempt to diminish the depth of sin, diminishes the glory of the Saviour. When we try to deceive ourselves about our sins, we are dishonouring the Lord Jesus Christ. Only as we see the depths to which we have fallen, will we see the heights to which we have been lifted.

What is your attitude today - is it one of love for Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour – one of gratitude? Or are you just playing at being a Christian, with no depth?

Meditative prayer as we invite God to do inner work in our lives. Allow the Holy Spirit to light up the areas not yet fully surrendered to Him and yield afresh to His will and His ways. Repent and confess of any known sin or areas you are not giving to God. He loves you and wants the best for you.

Use this time to restore your confidence in His love for you and desire to give you life in all its fullness. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a fresh devotion to Him and a renewed desire for holy and righteous living. **Lord Jesus, You command me to be holy as You are holy. I cannot do this on my own but because of Your death on the cross, I can claim Your righteousness and walk this out daily. Protect me from**

**drifting away, free me from distraction and enable me to resist temptation.**