

E-Series

Seeing God



7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God. **8** I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. **9** I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, **10** for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. **11** I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. **12** If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. **13** Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? **14** **Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill**

your vows to the Most High, 15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."

16 But to the wicked, God says: "What right have you to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips? **17** You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you. **18** When you see a thief, you join with him; you throw in your lot with adulterers. **19** You use your mouth for evil and harness your tongue to deceit. **20** You speak continually against your brother and slander your own mother's son. **21** These things you have done and I kept silent; you thought I was altogether like you. But I will rebuke you and accuse you to your face. **22** "Consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you to pieces, with none to rescue: **23** **He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.**" –Psalm 50:7-23

Yesterday we began our series, "Can You See Him?" For the next two weeks, we will be talking about seeing Jesus at work in our lives not only in the good times, but also in the bad and unexpected times.

We began yesterday by looking at Luke's account of Jesus healing ten lepers. Of course, of the ten only one came back to thank Jesus for his healing. Only one recognized Jesus as the source of his wholeness through gratitude.

That one, a [Samaritan](#), offered a "thank offering" (see the Psalm above) in dramatic fashion. He got down on his face before Jesus and thanked him profusely. As I noted yesterday, the Greek word translated "gave thanks" in this passage is *eucharistein*. It's from the verb [eucharisteo](#) which means "to thank." You may also recognize it as one of the names we use for Holy Communion. The Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, those are names for the same sacrament. Using the name Eucharist highlights the fact that Holy Communion is a thanksgiving meal. It's also a "thank offering," where we, in the words of our liturgy, "offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us." Christ offered himself for us on the cross. In the Eucharist, we offer ourselves back to him. It is a "thank offering."

Yesterday, in addition to our normal offering of ourselves, we brought our "Eucharistein Lists," a gratitude lists for the ways we see Christ moving and working in our lives. I hope that was a meaningful exercise for you.

Too often we are like the nine lepers who did not come back. We get complacent and take God's blessings for granted. I hope that we can all be more deliberate about our "thank offerings."

Thinking about Thanking,
Pastor Michael