

Sunday, Aug. 5: Holy Communion, Potluck

Message Title: "You Are Good"

Text: Mark 10:18 "And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.'"

Memory Verse: "For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100:5

Scripture: Exodus 34:4-10

Blurb: Do you slip into appreciating God only because of what He can do for you? Do you sometimes take God for granted, and seek Him out only when you want something? Our God is so amazing, and because He showers amazing blessings on us, we can begin to focus only on what He does (or doesn't do) for us. This Sunday we'll continue our prayer series by learning to focus not on the benefits we get from God, but on God's amazing character. And when we do, we will find our prayer life, and all of our lives, transformed! God is good...all the time!

Opening Song: *Glory to God* -Sanctify

Welcome: -Pastor David

God is good! [All the time!] All the time! [God is good!]

Holy Communion

Memory Verse: "For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100:5

Worship Music Set: - Sanctify

You Are Good

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Forever Reign

Worship Prayer - Andrew

Kid's Moment: -Andrew

Gloria Patri

Message: Transformed: Praying in a way that changes your life. - "Father."

Message Bumper

PP#1: Transformed: Praying in a way that changes your life.

"You Are Good"

"And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.'" -

Mark 10:18

Transformed: Praying in a way that changes your life. "You Are Good" Mark 10:18 "And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.'"

PP#2: Psalm 145 (CEB)

- Leader: 1 I will lift you up high, my God, the true king.
I will bless your name forever and always.
- Left Side: 2 **I will bless you every day.**
I will praise your name forever and always.
- Right Side: 3 **The Lord is great and so worthy of praise!**
God's greatness can't be grasped.

The Psalms are the worship book of the Bible. They are songs and poems that we can use to pray to God. They put words to how we feel, what we want, what we believe, what we ought to say, and they describe how we should talk about God, when we are talking to God. The Psalms are a prayer book, really. *If you want to learn to pray, read the Psalms.*

They're easy to find, because in most Bibles, they are in the very middle of the Bible. Open the Bible to half way, and you are in, or near, the Psalms.

Take a look at this one. This is Psalm 145. It's a prayer song, written by King David. And I want you to see how it describes God, how we approach God, and how we can come to God in prayer. Look at the beginning. Notice how it starts by praising God. Praising God is simply telling God how good He is. It's a form of worship.

So, let's use this Psalm to worship God together. Let's say it, and as we do, say the words from your heart...mean them. This first section is all praises to God. The left two sections here are the Left Side, and the right two sections the Right Side.

- Leader: 1 I will lift you up high, my God, the true king.
I will bless your name forever and always.
- Left Side: 2 **I will bless you every day.**
I will praise your name forever and always.
- Right Side: 3 **The Lord is great and so worthy of praise!**
God's greatness can't be grasped.

PP#3: Psalm 145 (CEB)

- Far Left: 4 **One generation will praise your works to the next one,**
proclaiming your mighty acts.
- Middle Left: 5 **They will talk all about the glorious splendor of your majesty;**
I will contemplate your wondrous works.
- Middle Right: 6 **They will speak of the power of your awesome deeds;**
I will declare your great accomplishments.
- Far Right: 7 **They will rave in celebration of your abundant goodness;**
they will shout joyfully about your righteousness:

After verse three, the praise of God begins to include some of the reasons why God is worthy of praise. People need to tell of God's praise not just to God, but to others: the next generation, in public, and they, too will join in praise. Let's try this together, section by section, starting on the left:

- Far Left: 4 **One generation will praise your works to the next one,**
proclaiming your mighty acts.
- Middle Left: 5 **They will talk all about the glorious splendor of your majesty;**
I will contemplate your wondrous works.

Middle Right: 6 **They will speak of the power of your awesome deeds;
I will declare your great accomplishments.**

Far Right: 7 **They will rave in celebration of your abundant goodness;
they will shout joyfully about your righteousness:**

So, it says that “they will talk about the glorious splendor of [God’s] majesty...They will speak of...[God’s] abundant goodness.” Take a moment and turn to your neighbor and share one thing about God’s character that is important to you. Finish the line, “God is amazing because He is....” Share one thing you love about God.

[Pause.]

God is good! [All the time!] And all the time! [God is good!]

So, let me ask, did you share something about who *God is*, or something that *God did*. Usually, when I share praises to or about God, I slip into mostly talking about what God has done, like how He helped me, or sustained me, or changed me. Today I want to challenge you to develop a prayer life of praise that focuses on what kind of being God is, focuses on His character.

PP#4: Biblical “Pocket Prayer” Outline:

Father, You are good.

I need you.

So do they.

Thank you. Amen.

This summer, we’re dreaming a new dream about what kind of church God wants us to be, and what kinds of ministries He wants us to be doing. We’re trying to capture God’s vision for us. And so dreaming a new dream means prayer. We’re asking God to share His vision for us, and we are listening to what God is saying. Dreaming is about communicating with God, and that’s the definition of prayer.

So, to do this, we’re working on our prayer lives: as a church, and as individuals. We want to learn to pray prayers that transform our everyday lives.

We’re using what Max Lucado calls “The Pocket Prayer.” It’s an outline for prayer that he has found used throughout the Scriptures. We’re praying this prayer as a church every day.

Last week we discovered just how shocking and radical it was to pray to God as our Heavenly Father. Have you been addressing God as your Father in your prayers this past week? Keep it up! Today, we take up the next line. “Father, you are good.”

PP#5: Psalm 145 (CEB)

Left Side: 8 **“The Lord is merciful and compassionate,
very patient, and full of faithful love.**

Right Side: 9 **The Lord is good to everyone and everything;
God’s compassion extends, to all His handiwork!”**

Let’s go again to Psalm 145. Verse seven said that the people declare praise to God. In verse 8, it says what people will say about how great God is, and why. Let’s try it together. Left side...

Left Side: 8 **“The Lord is merciful and compassionate,
very patient, and full of faithful love.**

Right Side: 9 **The Lord is good to everyone and everything;
God's compassion extends, to all His handiwork!**

Do you see how this describes God's nature, His personality, His tendencies?

PP#6: God is:

Psalm 145: "King," "great," "worthy to be praised," "majestic," "good," "righteous," "merciful," "compassionate," "patient," "full of faithful love," . . .

On your bulletin inserts, one of them has a blank space for notes. Start making a list of God's characteristics there. Write down "Psalm 145" and after that, write down "king," "great," "worthy to be praised," "majestic," "good," "righteous," "merciful," "compassionate," "patient," "full of faithful love." And leave room for more.

We pray to God as our Heavenly Father. But then the Pocket Prayer shows us that biblically, our prayers are best when they start off with praises to God. Now, usually, when we pray, we jump right into what we need or want. And it's not bad to do that. That's okay. But we're learning how to grow a more robust prayer life, seeking to embrace it's transforming power in our lives. And to do that, our prayers need to be anchored in God. Their focus needs to shift from us and our needs to the person and character of God.

PP#7: "Father, You are good."

We need our focus to be on God

You see, one of the secrets of prayer is that it lifts our eyes off of what we can only see. When we look around at our mess, our trap, our problems, they are too much for us. And we can become transfixed by them, paralyzed by them, or they can sap our hope and bring despair. Prayer transforms our lives by shifting our focus off of what is too much for us, and onto the person of God, for whom all things are very little. And so, we first need to spend some time remembering just what a great, big God we have. It is powerful to start our prayers by praising God.

PP#8: "Father, You are good."

We need our focus to be on God

1. To remember our God is bigger
2. To not make it about our comfort

It's not that our God is an egomaniac. "O, please, tell me how wonderful I am!" He doesn't need our praises. It's for our sake! Prayer puts us back in a right relationship with God.

When we fret about what is going wrong, it is because our God is too small! Facing a massive problem? Spend a minute remembering how much more massive your God is!

Or, we can even get the wrong focus when we thank God for the good things we have: for how He has blessed us, for how well things are going, for what we enjoy. You see, our focus, then, is still on us: how pleasant things are for us. And consequently, we can have a rough time with God when things don't go so well. "God is not helping me, protecting me!" "Why did God let this happen!" "How could God allow this?" But see where the attention is? It's on my situation...and I've now made God responsible for why things aren't going the way I want.

God is good! [All the time!] Really? Do you really believe that? All the time! [God is good.] Prayer, anchored in praise, keeps that as our focus.

PP#9: Psalm 145 (CEB)

Leader: 10 All that you have made gives thanks to you, Lord;
all your faithful ones bless you!

Left Side: 11 **They speak of the glory of your kingdom;
they talk all about your power,**

Right Side: 12 **to inform all human beings about God's power
and the majestic glory of God's kingdom.**

“10 All that you have made gives thanks to you, Lord; all your faithful ones bless you!”

Left Side: 11 **They speak of the glory of your kingdom;
they talk all about your power,**

Right Side: 12 **to inform all human beings about God's power
and the majestic glory of God's kingdom.**

Turn to Exodus 34. The people of Israel have left slavery in Egypt. They have gathered around Mount Sinai, and God spoke to them through Moses. He said, “I am the God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of slavery. Therefore, obey my rules so you may live well.” And then He gave them the 10 Commandments.

Moses brings them down, sees the people worshipping an idol, and in his anger, throws the tablets on the ground and breaks them. Now, in chapter 34, Moses goes back up the mountain, and God gives him the commandments a second time. And before He gives the commandments, God lists the reasons why they should follow Him. Last time He told them what He had done for them. This time He reveals His very character.

PP#10: Exodus 34:4-10 (CEB)

4 So Moses cut two stone tablets like the first ones. He got up early in the morning and climbed up Mount Sinai, just as the Lord had commanded him. He carried the two stone tablets in his hands. 5 The Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him, and proclaimed the name, “The Lord.” 6 The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: “The Lord! The Lord! a God who is compassionate and merciful, very patient, full of great loyalty and faithfulness, . . .

Exodus 34, starting with verse 4, “So Moses cut two stone tablets like the first ones. He got up early in the morning and climbed up Mount Sinai, just as the Lord had commanded him. He carried the two stone tablets in his hands. The Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him, and proclaimed the name, ‘The Lord.’”

Okay, get out that bulletin insert for your notes again. Make another entry, “Exodus 34.” Verse 6, “The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: ‘The Lord! The Lord! a God who is compassionate and merciful, very patient, full of great loyalty and faithfulness, . . .’”

PP#11: Exodus 34:4-10 (CEB)

7 showing great loyalty to a thousand generations, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion, yet by no means clearing the guilty, punishing for their parents' sins their children and their grandchildren, as well as the third and the fourth generation.”

When we pray about our lives, and our futures, starting with praising God for His character, it instills our trust in Him, and makes us confident to follow Him, even when the path seems unclear, or hard, or weird. It makes us able to say, “I don’t get it. I can’t see what this is all about. But I’ll trust God anyway. I’ll follow when I can’t figure it out.”

PP#15: “Father, You are good.”

We need our focus to be on God

1. To remember our God is bigger
2. To not make it about our comfort
3. To instill our trust in God
4. To see our nature in His

But there’s another, deeper, turn in this. Transforming prayers begin by focusing on God’s nature, because it is only when we see God’s perfect and uncorrupted nature, that we can finally get a clearer picture of the nature He made in us. God made us in His image. We reflect His very nature in ours. Ours, however, is fallen, and blurry. We may not even be sure who we are, or what we are like. We may start believing the corrupted nature that gets so much of our attention. But that is not who we are. We need to pray transforming prayers by spend substantial time on how good God is, His divine attributes, His personality. For it is in them, that we see our own attributes, the person God created us to be. We are made to be good, too. We are made to be merciful. We are to be patient, and just, and holy, and forgiving, and helpful, and lifting up the weak and powerless. This is your identity! This is who you are! It is only when you take a good, long look at God, that you can begin to see who you truly are!

When you stumble, and falter, and sin, and wonder who you are: list out God’s praises. You will begin to rediscover who you are again! God’s Holy Spirit in you will restore His created image in you. You will be transformed! Transforming prayers spend serious time praising God first.

PP#16: Psalm 145 (CEB)

Leader: 14 The Lord supports all who fall down,
straightens up all who are bent low.
Left Side: 15 **All eyes look to you, hoping,
and you give them their food right on time,**
Right Side: 16 **opening your hand
and satisfying the desire of every living thing.**

“The Lord supports all who fall down, straightens up all who are bent low.

[Left side:] 15 **All eyes look to you, hoping, and you give them their food right on time,**

[Right side:] 16 **opening your hand and satisfying the desire of every living thing.**

A man one time came to Jesus and addressed Him as “Good teacher.” Mark 10:18. Jesus turned to him and asked, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.” Jesus, perhaps, was hoping the man was realizing Jesus’ true identity. But Jesus’ statement is perhaps the most important statement of all time. *Our God is good.* No matter what the world teaches, or tries to get us to believe, we serve a good God. We may not always be able to explain it, or understand it, and we may need to change how we define good, but it is this profession of faith that we hang on to with all our being. God is good, and that is our hope and our future! The Pilot who knows where we’re going, who is taking us into our future, is good!

Before we ask God for what we need or want, before we even thank Him for what He has done for us, we start by declaring what is true. And as we do, we are transformed!

PP#17: Holy Communion

God's character is most completely demonstrated in Jesus, and His sacrifice for us by dying on the cross. You want a definition of good, look there. And that's what we're going to do this morning. We are going to call God good, as we remember what Jesus did for us.

We always begin Holy Communion by prayer. We shift our focus to God. We pray prayers of confession, and ask His forgiveness. We ask Him to make us more into the person we are intended to be. So, this morning, we'll do that by praying the rest of Psalm 145. Make this your prayer of praise, and open your heart to let God's Spirit transform you from the inside out. Let's pray,

PP#18: Psalm 145 (CEB)

Leader: 17 **The Lord is righteous in all His ways,
faithful in all His deeds.**

Far Left: 18 **The Lord is close to everyone who calls out to Him,
to all who call out to Him sincerely.**

Middle Left: 19 **God shows favor to those who honor Him,
listening to their cries for help and saving them.**

Middle Right: 20 **The Lord protects all who love Him,
but He destroys every wicked person.**

Far Right: 21 **My mouth will proclaim the Lord's praise,
and every living thing will bless God's holy name forever and always.**

All: **Amen!**

PP#19: Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving
Words of Institution
Prayer for the Holy Spirit
Receiving of the elements
Offering
Song: *Gloria Patri*

Closing Song: *Rejoice the Lord Is King* - Sanctify

Memory Verse: -Pastor David

"For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100:5

Announcements: -Pastor David

Meal for everyone!

Benediction: -Pastor David

Say Grace for the potluck.