

## The Meaning of Gratitude

Jason Denison, Worship Pastor

December 1, 2013

Question: Have you been forgiven much or little?

### The Nature of Gratitude

Gratitude is a response to a gift (unearned benefit) given by a person.

What does this mean?

- 1) It means that your entitlement comes from a lack rather than plenty. A stone rather than a gift.
- 2) It means that if we are called to be thankful in all circumstances at all times that there must be a gift there all the time.
- 3) It means that the Universe has a person behind it.

### The Primacy of Gratitude

It all starts here.

Worship, the act of responding to a God of self-giving love through the response of thanksgiving, is prime, all important.

It trumps the to-do list all day long.

### Two Kinds of Gratitude

Pre gift, and post gift, but mostly pre.

Pre is not really pre, because in Jesus, it's a reality.

So what does gratitude have to do with the meaning of life?

Gratitude (aka worship) is the precursor to NEW KINGDOM REALITIES

Why? Because grateful people gush. Gush what? The stuff we've been given.

## The First Sunday of Advent: Hope

Isaiah says..

"...but in the future he [God] will honor Galilee of the Gentiles...

The people walking in darkness

have seen a great light;

on those living

in the land of the shadow of death

a light has dawned...

For unto us a child is born,

to us a son is given,

and the government will be upon his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor

Mighty God

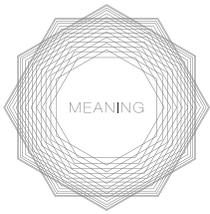
Everlasting Father

Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:1-6

Isaiah says that the Prince of Peace has come to us...

It is said that man proposes but that God disposes. The currents of life often take us where we never planned to go. So it is with Joseph and Mary. First an angel visits Mary and then Joseph. They receive a special but difficult message. Then this registration business further complicates their lives. For whatever reason, Mary must go and this adds a degree of difficulty to the trip. They are driven by events outside of their control, but what shines through all the difficulty is their character—they believe God. Through it all, they trust God and obey.



## The Meaning of Gratitude

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December 1, 2013

Question: Have you been forgiven \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?

### The Nature of Gratitude

Gratitude is a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_  
given by a \_\_\_\_\_.

What does this mean?

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### The Primacy of Gratitude

It all \_\_\_\_\_.

Worship, the \_\_\_\_\_ to a God of self-giving  
love through the response of \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_. It trumps the \_\_\_\_\_ all day long.

### Two Kinds of Gratitude

\_\_\_\_\_ gift, and \_\_\_\_\_ gift, but mostly \_\_\_\_\_.

Pre is not really \_\_\_\_\_, because in Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_.

So what does gratitude have to do with the meaning of life?

Gratitude (a.k.a. \_\_\_\_\_) is the precursor to \_\_\_\_\_.

Why? Because grateful people \_\_\_\_\_. Gush what? The stuff  
we've been \_\_\_\_\_.

## The First Sunday of Advent: Hope

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