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What has God done for you lately?

It may sound like a strange question, “What has God done for you lately?” Or perhaps as irreverent, or one you feel guilty about having.

Sometimes we are so focused on what’s going on, or not going on, in our lives that we don’t notice what God has done and is doing. That can happen in our difficult, drab and even exciting experiences. Yes, we know and are so thankful that God saved us, but that can seem to be far in the rear view mirror.



Psalm 66 can help us with lessons and examples. It opens,

“Shout joyfully to God, all the earth.
Sing the glory of His name.
Make His praise glorious.
Say to God, ‘How awesome are Your works!’”

The Psalm writer goes on to cite examples of what God has done followed by his own action to praise God for what He has done for him. He recounts God’s work of turning the sea into dry land so Israel could pass through, and how He brought them into a land of abundance. He also gets personal when he testifies that God led him, paid attention to him when he cried out to Him.

His example of recounting and praising God for His works in the past and present is a lesson, a challenge for us. This, of course, requires, begins with reflection and observation. As the old hymn sings, “Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God has done.” *Question:* How often do you do that? When was the last time you reflected, recounted and praised God for what He has done, told Him “How awesome are Your works”? Is it your regular practice or discipline?

The next step we learn from the Psalm writer is to then tell others what God has done. In verse 16 he calls to us, “Come and hear all who fear God, and I will tell of what He has done for my soul.”

There are many examples of this in Scripture. The gospels tell us about Jesus casting demons out of a man and sending them into a large herd of about 2,000 pigs which then rushed down a steep

bank into the sea and drowned (which shows the destructiveness of Satan's forces). The people asked Jesus to leave their area (which shows they were more concerned about the pigs than people). But the now demon-free man kept begging Jesus to let him go with Him. Mark tells us that Jesus "did not let him, but He said to him, 'Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you'" (5:19). Luke puts it this way, "Return to your home and describe what great things God has done for you." Then Luke continues reporting, "So [the man] went away, proclaiming throughout the city what great things Jesus had done for him" (8:39).

Do we follow the example of the Psalm writer and the man whom Jesus freed from demons, as well as so many others? People traveling to Jerusalem for festivals and feasts sang to each other, "The LORD has done great things for us. We are joyful" (Psalm 126:3). Without doubt God has done and is doing great things for us. This is true regardless of our circumstances or feelings. So we too can say, and sing praise to God in the words of the chorus, "He has done great things, bless His holy name!"

Sometimes we may not take note of what God has done. If you sat down and wrote out a list of what God has done for you in the last week, how long would it be? Even when we take note of God's blessings we may stumble at the second hurdle, we may not tell others what "God has done for my soul." At times that can be because we are shy, or fear people might think we are boasting. Remember, praising God is focused on Him, what He has done, not ourselves. As our focus is on God there is no need for concern.

What has God done for you recently? As you note some of what He has done for you, thank and praise Him, then tell others. It brings honor and glory to God and can encourage them as well.

Pastor Lyle