



**Series:** The Joy of Living with Gratitude

**Passage:** Daniel 6 Jonah 2 Acts 27

**Title:** Living with Gratitude

**Speaker:** Pastor JC Cooper, 11/28/2021

**Discussion Starter** – What is it about Jesus’ life that allowed Him to live His life with such gratitude?

### **Product of an entitled spirit**

- What is entitlement and why is entitlement the enemy of gratitude?
- Pastor JC mention three ways that entitlement can manifest itself in our lives (Selfish Ambition, Self-Righteousness, and Self Reliance). What do these three forms of entitlement look like in our lives and why can we be so easily drawn into them?
- Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8. Have you ever experienced freedom from not having to strive for more?
- Is ambition in itself bad? What does it look like to have righteous ambition? How does selfish ambition rob us of thankfulness?
- Read Luke: 20:46-47. Does this warning apply just to the religious leaders of Jesus’ day, or can we also apply this warning to us as believers? How so?
- Read Galatians 2:19-20. Gratitude begins when our striving ends. What is the difference between healthy and unhealthy striving/working? Are there times in your life where you have realized you were striving for something in the wrong way?
- As believers, when things are going well, how might our living a life of gratitude be in danger?

### **Daniel 6:10-11, Jonah 2:1-10 and Acts 27:33-38**

- How do you see Daniels’ life as an example of gratitude as demonstrates by his willingness to continue to praying to God three times a day even though it could have cost him his life?
- Read Daniel 10:11-12: What did Daniel know about his relationship with God and how did that effect his attitude?
- Read Romans 8:38-39. What is it that gives us gratitude even in bad circumstances?
- What lessons about gratitude do we learn from Jonah’s experience in this story?
- What were the spiritual stages of the heart that led Jonah to Gratitude?
- Read Acts 27:35. Why do you think Paul gave thanks in the middle of the storm? What are some of the ways we have reacted to the storms in our lives that do not reflect a heart of gratitude?
- Read Philippians 2:3-4. How can applying this verse lead to a better outlook during life’s storms and lead to an attitude of gratitude?
- Acts 27:38: What was the spiritual significance of the men throwing the wheat out into the sea? Can you think of a time in your life when you had a similar experience?
- John Piper: “Our underlying problem is a deep desire not to find our satisfaction in God’s greatness, but our own.” How can we attain this perspective? How have you tried to apply this?