

**Gratitude or Resentment:
You Choose
Luke 15:11-32**

Peter Roebbelen
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L O S T
A N D
F O U N D

The Story

- **The Father responds with gratitude.**
- **The elder son responds with resentment.**
 - **He is lost.**

Rembrandt's Painting

We have a choice to make – gratitude or resentment.

- **We do not have to be resentful.**
- **Troubles will come.**

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:12

Gratitude is a way of life for followers of Jesus.

Be filled with gratitude. Let the message of Christ dwell among you in all its richness... Sing thankfully in your hearts to God, with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Whatever you are doing, whether you speak

or act, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col. 3:15-17

Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess. 5:17-18

Gratitude becomes possible when we trust God

Psalm 100

***What is your only comfort in life and death?
That I am not my own
but belong –
body and soul,
in life and in death –
to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.
Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1***

What happens when we respond with gratitude rather than resentment?

- **We become people who heal rather than harm.**
 - **We become people who bless rather than curse.**
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Things to Think About:

Who do you identify with the most – the Father or the elder son? Why?

In what circumstances do you respond with resentment? Why?

Are you regularly assessing whether or not you are getting your fair share? What does that say about your heart?

Are you naturally a grateful person? Why or why not?

Are you confident that you “belong body and soul, in life and death” to your faithful Saviour Jesus Christ? Another way to ask this is, “Do you trust God?”

If the answer to the last question is ‘no’, please talk to one of our pastors or leaders. We’d love to help you.

Please remember that God loves you – whether you are the prodigal or the elder son.
