

# GRATEFULNESS

IN THE HARD STUFF

## GOD'S WILL FOR US IS TO GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)** Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**1 Thessalonians 2:2 (NIV)** We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition.

## GOD WORKS ALL THINGS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM

**Romans 8:28 (NIV)** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

**Our thankfulness should not be based  
on our circumstances, but on the One Who  
is above everything — Jesus!!**

## THE GOSPEL ITSELF IS STEEPED IN TRAGEDY

**Matthew 2:12-16** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. <sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed,

behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." <sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.

**Matthew 26:14-16** Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

**Matthew 27:33-50** And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. <sup>36</sup> Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup> And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." <sup>38</sup> Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup> And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" <sup>44</sup> And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. <sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup> And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." <sup>48</sup> And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

**AT THE LORD'S TABLE,  
WE CELEBRATE THE HARD STUFF**

**Brian Robertson, Pastor, Spiritual Development & Mentoring**  
**David Jimenez, Pastor, Viña Anonos**  
**New Life Church/November 25 & 26, 2017**