

Oak Hills Baptist Church

Sermon Title: "Knowing God as Owner and Giver: The Beginning of a Life of Worship and Generosity"

By Pastor Paul Pankratz

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Sermon Summary

The old saying that "possession is nine tenths of the law" is said to be a precept from old English Common Law (but other sources claim it is much older). The adage relates to a property owner's ability to possess, use and dispose of property as he saw fit. Since the earth and all who live on it belong to the LORD, it seems like a good idea to get to know our owner. Psalm 145 offers us broad descriptions of God's character and management style. Ultimately, God is "most worthy" of our praise. God's Kingdom is eternal and his compassion extends to all.

1. Launching

* Any initial thoughts or questions from Sunday's sermon?

2. Read the passage

* Psalm 145:1-21 & Psalm 24:1-2

3. Diving into the Text

Today's Psalms teach us that the Earth and everything in it belong to God. He is the Creator and sustainer of life, and as such is worthy of our unencumbered worship.

1. Do you think of yourself as owned by God?
2. Do you live as if you have access to God? (At church? Home? Work? School?) Are there things that prevent you from living as if you have access to God?
3. Pastor Pankratz challenged us to not only think of God as the "owner" but as the "giver." Does this change your perceptions of God?

King David, the likely author of Psalm 145, wrote this beautiful hymn to the LORD in celebration of the return of the Ark of the Covenant, the symbol of God's presence, to Israel. Psalm 145 is a song of praise to the Lord for his great acts and compassionate attributes.

1. Together as a group, list attributes of God found in Psalm 145.
2. What keeps you from praising God in a manner similar to that found in Psalm 145? (Pessimism? Past failures?)
3. When have you failed to praise God for blessings and instead looked to others or yourself? How can we instead train our minds to look to God first and foremost in all such situations?

Upon the Ark's arrival, David celebrated by dancing with exultation, but was later criticized for such a public display, which many deemed as "undignified."

1. At what times have you found yourself acting "undignified?" (Sports events, meeting certain persons, passion for a hobby, etc.)
2. Have you ever found yourself acting "undignified" for the kingdom of God? (In joy, sorrow, etc.)
3. Do you find a discrepancy in your behavior between spiritual and non-spiritual matters? How can that be positive or negative?

Pastor Pankratz talked about generosity as a natural outflow of our praise. He referenced how Christ would define generosity from Luke 6: 32-36, which is to give to people who cannot repay you.

1. Who are the people in our midst (culture, city, church) who cannot repay?
2. Do you find yourself generous with others in the way Christ defines it in Luke? How can you be more generous? In what way is our campaign a generous attempt to "pay it forward"?
3. We cannot repay or out give God. Discuss.

4. Responding & Prayer

Begin by speaking the attributes of God aloud. Next ask God to prompt you to praise this week. Pray for generosity as Christ described.