



Dr. Mark Gonzales
Royal Palm Association, SBC
www.royalpalmsbc.com

Well Kept How God Treats Me Philippians 4:6-7

Intro: We all drift to feeling anxious, frustrated, and even angry with God from time to time, right? Why? Well, we tend to lose sight of what a good buddy of mine answers any time someone greets and asks him: "How ya doing?" He always says: **"I'm well kept."** How can we keep that in mind and be anxious for nothing in our walk with the Lord? 4 things

How to be and feel "well kept"

(Pride & Prejudice; Bingly/Jane; Darcy/Lizzy)

1. Pray with Thanksgiving. (v. 6)

- Praise Him for who He is
- Thank Him for what He does

2. Ask with Thanksgiving. (v. 6)

- Vent what you're going through
- Thank Him IN it, not FOR it
- Ask, but release your preferences;

Shadrach & friends/Daniel 3:13-18

3. Embrace His Peace. (v. 7)

- His peace surpasses understanding
- Fiery furnace peace

4. Rest in His Protection. (v. 7)

- This guards hearts AND minds
- Less thanksgiving = less protection

Prodigal son/Bitter brother/Luke 15:11ff

5. Pray without Ceasing. I Thess. 4: 16-18

- 16 Rejoice always;
- 17 pray without ceasing;
- 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you **in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by **prayer and supplication with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the **peace of God**, which **surpasses all comprehension**, will **guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Daniel 3:13-18

Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lute, bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 **But even if He does not**, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Luke 15:11-32

11 And He said, "A man had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, '**Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.**' So he divided his wealth between them. 13 And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

14 **Now when he had spent everything**, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.

17 **But when he came to his senses**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and **am in your sight**"; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'"

20 **So he got up and came to his father.** But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and **embraced him and kissed him.** 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; 23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

25 **"Now his older son was in the field**, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' 28 **But he became angry** and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. 29 But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; 30 but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

31 **And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.** 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and *has begun* to live, and was lost and has been found.'"