

Give Thanks

This Thursday is Thanksgiving. For many of us, it is a time to gather with our families. If family is not close by, we can talk on the phone or via video chat with them. In more ways than one, it is a day when we feel satisfied. Time with family is fulfilling and full stomachs oftentimes are the catalyst for naps while watching Thanksgiving Day football games on TV. We feel a sense of satisfaction as we look around the dinner table, not just at the delicious meal that has been prepared but at those who are in our presence.



Thanksgiving is more than a time to count our blessings. In response, we are to give thanks to the Lord. It is the Lord who made every blessing possible. God is the source of all that we have. It is easy to take that for granted. We may think we earned the home we live in, the car in the driveway, and we made enough right choices in life to acquire the material things around us. Oh, how narrow-minded we can be. The Bible reminds us: *For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen (Romans 11:36).*

Did you catch the part from the above scripture that reminds us that what we have “is intended for his glory?” It is not enough to feel satisfied and sleep in front of the TV. It is also not enough to merely feel grateful for what we have. God’s blessings upon us are *so that* we can be a blessing to others. We should use the gifts the Lord has given to us to help others.

The Bible tells us about Jesus’ healing ten lepers. All ten appreciated the life-changing gift of healing them from the illness of leprosy. Jesus instructed them to show themselves to the priests to verify they were cleansed. That was necessary to eliminate being an outcast in their culture. But only one returned to thank Jesus. Jesus was offended that only one returned to give praise to the Lord by thanking Him. Do we take for granted God’s blessings and forget to give Him thanks? Hearing this story, what was the depth of their thankfulness?

Kneel at the feet of the Lord in a prayer of thanksgiving. Give thanks and praise the Lord, who has blessed you so richly. And then, rise, and use those blessings to serve the Lord.



Prayer: Lord, give us hearts that are grateful for your many blessings on our lives. We pray we will be a blessing to others. Amen.

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” (Luke 17:11-19).