

Thoughts on Thanksgiving 2025

Let's take a break and talk about a topic on our door step: Thanksgiving [Lk. 17:12-19](#)

--Governor William Bradford 3 years after the pilgrims settled at Plymouth; "To all ye Pilgrims, Inasmuch as the great father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, squashes and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as he has protected us from the raids of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday November ye 29th of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Plymouth rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."

Have you ever considered the fact that no Americans were more underprivileged than the first ones to hold Thanksgiving?

--No permanent homes, no Gov. agency to help with that, no means of transportation but their legs, no Wal-Mart or HEB only what they could catch or grow, no money and no place to spend it if they had it, no way to get in touch with family or friends in the old country.

--They had what they had and a boundless faith in God!

--With that, they started a tradition that didn't revolve around any momentous event or war or special calendar date, just a day for a nation to express its thanks to God.

President Lincoln made it a recurrent holiday for our nation. So thanksgiving is a national holiday but it should hold a much greater importance to us because more than a national holiday, it is a **fundamental principle and an act of our faith—the giving of thanks to our God**

--It's not just a holiday, it's a way of life commanded for those who follow Jesus. [Eph. 5:19-20](#), [I Thess. 5:16-18](#).

How very important the subject of thanksgiving is: **Something Rudyard Kipling did I think**

explains it best. Kipling was one of few writers who had the opportunity to enjoy his success while he lived. He was able to make a great deal of money at his trade. One time a newspaper reporter came up to him and said, "Mr. Kipling, I just read that somebody calculated that the money you make from your writings amounts to over a hundred dollars a word." Mr. Kipling raised his eyebrows and said, "Really, I certainly wasn't aware of that." The reporter reached down into his pocket and pulled out a \$100 dollar bill and gave it to Kipling and said, "Here's a \$100 dollars give me one of your words." Mr. Kipling looked at that 100 dollars for a moment and then he folded it and put it in his pocket then he looked up at the reporter and said, "Thanks."

1. This morning I'm going to share with you three things we can learn about Thanksgiving from the Bible.

First, thanksgiving should be expressed. [Ps. 107:1-2](#)

Remember the story of the ten lepers? [Lk. 17:12-19](#)

--Why did Jesus say that to him? --Were not the others healed also?

--Almost as if He pronounced a special healing on this one man.

--In fact, He did because there was more than just physical healing that happened to this man

--Spiritual healing and a Mental healing as well

An experiment was done in New York's Central Park where an advertising firm dressed a man up as a blind man and gave him a cup to collect money. One day they put a sign around his neck that read, "I'm Blind." On that day he collected about \$4.00. The next day they dressed him the same way, placed him in the same place but changed the sign to read, "It's Spring and I'm Blind." That day he collected nearly \$40.00. That day, those people realized how blessed they were by the beautiful flowers, birds, the sunrise and sunset.

--When we express thanksgiving, we complete a circle like the leperous man did.

--Jesus has healed us of a disease far worse than leperousy, and then we turn around and express thanks and the circle is completed.

--Failure to thank God leaves us incomplete, wanting, open to false and foolish things.

The prognosis is pretty dismal when we turn away from thanksgiving: **Rom. 1:21-23**

1. You're foolish to not give thanks;

2. You become futile in your speculations. *When we give up God, we give up the foundation for proper thinking. Once we do that, we will find ways to justify anything and everything we want to do.*

3. Darkened in your heart – worship stuff that isn't God.

--Do you see what thanksgiving delivers us from? Do you see what our founding fathers were trying to deliver us from.

--Expressing thanks is more than just saying "thank you" – Spend time with Him; Forgive others; serve the church; share His plan of salvation; when you give Him your best.

2. A second thing we can learn about thanksgiving is what it should cover.

--When you hear the words, "Let's give thanks to God." What are the things that come to your mind to give thanks for?

--**Eph. 5:20, I Thess. 5:16-18** --Do you know what "all" means in the Greek? **ALL** --This means blessings and burdens!!! → What burdens do you have to be thankful for this year? Could be here all day?

For two years, scientists sequestered themselves in an artificial environment called Biosphere 2. Inside their self-sustaining community, the Biospherians created a number of mini-environments, including a desert, rain forest, even an ocean. Nearly every weather condition could be simulated except one, wind. Over time, the effects of their windless environment became apparent. The plants couldn't support their own weight. The stems were thin and flimsy and when they bore fruit, they toppled over.

--Winds of life aren't fun, but they come to make you sturdy so you won't topple over. Sometimes its in the difficulties in life that we see Him and thank Him best.

3. **Third thing we can learn from the Bible about thanksgiving: Its expected!** "Give thanks in all circumstances because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." **This is the mark of a Growing Christian:**

For example, a baby is ungrateful. You can take a little baby when it has colic and walk the floor with them for hours and when you put that baby down - they don't say, "Thank You." More than likely, they will just yell a little louder. A child has to be taught to be thankful. It just doesn't come naturally. Sometimes you have to almost force them to say thank you.

4. **As the Psalmist has said, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord."** Henry Frost served for many years as a missionary to China. In his journal he wrote of a very difficult time in his life. He says, "I had received sad news from home, and deep shadows had covered my soul. I prayed BUT the darkness did not vanish. I summoned myself to endure, BUT the darkness only deepened. Then I went to an inland station and saw on the wall of the mission home these words: 'TRY THANKSGIVING.' I did, and in a moment every shadow was gone, not to return.

Have you been going through some difficult times?

Have you prayed but they're still there?

Have you told yourself to keep on going and it would someday disappear - but it got deeper?

Then why not try THANKSGIVING?