

A Day Of Thanksgiving

Text : **Luke 17: 11-19 ; Ephesians 5: 15-21**

S#1.

A. As we approach the day of national thanksgiving let us consider it.

B. Thanksgiving Proclamation issued by Geo. Washington .. Oct 3, 1789

S#2.

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and—Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me “to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:”

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favor, able interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish

constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

C. Our first President had values we should emulate and share in prayer.**S#3.**

1. Notice Washington's attitude toward God; he acknowledges God as :
 - a. The source of all good
 - b. Ruler of all nations
 - c. Providential protector of the nation
2. Notice what he instructs us to thank God for :

a. Protection	f. Establishment of just Government
b. Opportunity to govern	g. Liberty
c. Success of the revolution	h. Learning and teaching
d. Peace	i. All favors
e. Prosperity	j. Governed by laws
3. He asked us to pray for those who have blessed us.

a. Give them good government	c. True religion
b. Grant them peace	d. Virtue
4. Prosperity for all ... the elimination of poverty.

I. The ruler of all creation has also given a decree of thanksgiving.**S#4.****A. Formal expressions of gratitude toward God were part of the old law.**

1. Feasts of thanksgiving were held at the beginning and at the end of harvest.
Exod. 34: 21-22 You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; **S#5.**
 even during plowing time and harvest you shall rest. **22** You shall
 (*Thanksgiving X 2*) celebrate the Feast of Weeks, that is, the first fruits of the wheat
 harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year.
 2. There were times when individuals were to make "thank offerings."
Lev. 7: 13 – With the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving, **S#6.**
 he shall present his offering with cakes of leavened bread.
 3. **Side note :** Notice God's attitude toward leftovers. **S#7.**
Lev. 7: 15 – Now as for the flesh of the sacrifice of his thanksgiving
 peace offerings, it shall be eaten on the day of his offering;
 he shall not leave any of it over until morning.
- B. Even today expressions of gratitude are still deemed to be sacrifices to God. S#8.**
1. **Heb. 13: 15** – Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise
 to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

2. While on earth Jesus expected people to be grateful when He blessed them. **S#9.**
Luke 17: 17 – Then Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed?
 But the nine—where are they?

3. The Lord’s Apostle directly commands us : **S#10.**
I Thes. 5: 16-18 Rejoice always; **17** pray without ceasing; **18** in everything
give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

S#11.

D. One’s attitude toward being grateful reflects his attitude toward God.

II. God expects man to be thanked for all that He does for us.

S#12.

A. There is no one who does not owe God a debt of gratitude.

S#13.

1. We are His and we live on His earth. **S#14.**
Psa. 24: 1 – The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains,
 The world, and those who dwell in it.

2. God gives us life and sustains our lives. **S#15.**
Acts 17: 24-28 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of Heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; **25** nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; **26** and He made from one man every **#16.** nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, **27** that they would seek God, if perhaps they might **S#17.** grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **28** for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’

B. God even blesses those who hate Him.

S#18.

1. He sends them what they need to thrive. **S#19.**
Matt. 5: 45 – so that you may be sons of your Father who is in Heaven for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

2. The Only Begotten Son of God died to save those who hate God. **S#20.**
Rom. 5: 6 – For while we were still helpless,
 at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (Vs. **10** ... enemies)

C. Jesus wanted all ten lepers to thank Him for healing them.

S#21.

1. Jesus healed 10, but only one returned to thank Him and to praise God.
2. By calling attention to the other nine, Jesus indicated the others should have come.
3. By specifying that it was a foreigner who came Jesus indicted the Jews. (*apply ch*)

- * 4. Like God's people of old, God's people today take His blessings for granted.
 - a. We think little of the privilege of prayer ... free, unlimited access to the God, the sovereign ruler of the universe. *We can't even go into our mayor.*
 - b. We take the forgiveness of our sins for granted. *Purchased at enormous cost.*
- * 5. How often we take His church for granted.
 - a. It's always been here so we tend to think little about missing an assembly.
 - b. **Thank God**, the church is a world wide support group that's always there for us.

D. The Apostle Paul demonstrated an appreciation for the church.

S#22.

1. He continually thanked God for the churches :
 - a. Rom. 1: 8
 - b. I Cor. 1: 4
 - c. Eph. 1: 16 , Col. , Phil , Thes,
2. **Acts 20** ... Paul delayed his journey for a week to meet with the church at Troas.
3. When Paul arrived in Rome he was uplifted and encouraged by the church.
Acts 28: 15 – **And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.**

S#23.

- * **Note** : *This is one reason church attendance is so very important. One never knows who is in need of encouragement.*

S#24.

III. Christians are to give thanks in everything, even in adversity.

S#25.

A. It's within the nature of man to become ungrateful.

S#26.

1. **Job 1-2** ... The devil assumed Job would become ungrateful under adversity.
2. The absence of gratitude is the first step in apostasy.
 - a. **Rom. 1: 21** – **For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**
 - b. One who ceases to acknowledge God as their provider becomes ME centered.
 - c. Faith compels one to acknowledge God.

S#27.

B. The N.T. disciples thanked God for the privilege of suffering because of Christ.

1. Christians rejoice when permitted to suffer for Christ.
 - a. **Acts 5: 41** – **So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.**
 - b. **James 1: 2** – **Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,**

S#28.

2. Adversity is an opportunity to glorify God.

- a. Imagine what would have been the outcome if Paul and Silas had protesting their incarceration which in jail in Philippi ? **Acts 16**
- b. **I Pet. 2: 20** – For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, **S#29.**
you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

3. The Apostle counted his suffering as a blessing.

- a. **Col. 1: 24** – Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh **S#30.**
I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.
- b. **Phil. 1: 29** – For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, **S#31.**
not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

* 4. Sin is the only circumstance in which we cannot glorify God.

- a. In adversity Christians do not grieve as those who have no hope. **I Thes. 4: 13**
- b. We understand that God is in control and we are going to be with Him.
- c. Adversity gives us an opportunity to share our faith.

IV. The giving of thanks is a form of worship.

S#32.
S#33.

A. The scriptures define prayers of thanksgiving as offering “a sacrifice of praise.”

Heb. 13: 15 – Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, **that is,** the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

S#34.

B. We are instructed that our singing is to be accompanied by the giving of thanks.

Eph. 5: 19-20 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **S#35.**
singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; **20** always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Col 3: 16 – ... and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God

C. Thanking God is worship because it is an acknowledgement of God's deity. **S#36.**

- 1. It acknowledges that God exists.
- 2. It is an acknowledgement of our dependence upon God.
- 3. It acknowledges that He has the power and the willingness to provide.

James 1: 17 – Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above. **S#37.**
coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

D. The giving of thanks is ordained by God to be part of the assembly. S#38.

1. The gift of tongues could not be used without an interpreter because of this.

I Cor. 14: 15-17 What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. **16** Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the/ place of the ungifted say the

S#40.

“Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? **17** For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.

2. The very nature of our giving of thanks should edify all present in the assembly.

E. The desire to bring the worship of thanksgiving to God is a motivation for Christians to be more evangelistic. S#41.

1. **II Cor. 4: 15** – For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God. **S#42.**

2. To become a Christian is to become one who thanks God for his salvation.

CONCLUSION :

S#43.

A. Though we're always thankful to God let us be additionally mindful this week.

1. There are a lot of things wrong with our country, but it's still the best nation.
2. Let us be mindful of all that God has done for us as a nation.
 - a. Free to worship and free to teach others about God.
 - b. Most prosperous country in the history of the world.
 - c. Within our borders, we are secure from armed invaders.

B. Let us remember to give thanks for all the things God gave us that we did not choose or request. S#44.

1. We were born in a place where the gospel is preached.
2. We were not born as part of a hated class or godless cult.
3. We were born sound of mind and body enabling us to work.

C. Thanksgiving is an attitude of heart. S#45.

1. We feast, but it's not about the feast.
2. May we all humble ourselves before God and acknowledge what He does for us.

INVITATION : Ezek. 18: 31 ... May God create within us a new heart.

Lesson Text :

Luke 17: 11-19

11 While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee. **12** As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; **13** and they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" **14** When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed. **15** Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, **16** and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. **17** Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? **18** Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?" **19** And He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well."

Ephesians 5: 15-21

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, **16** making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17** So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; **20** always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; **21** and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Ezek 18: 31 - Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel