

# THANKSGIVING • AT FIRST •

Pastor  
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LIVING A LIFE OF THANKSGIVING

First  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

“ No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered us with mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that (these gracious gifts) should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. ”

Thanksgiving Proclamation (excerpt), Abraham Lincoln, Oct. 3, 1863

## A CALL TO THANKSGIVING

CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO, NOT JUST \_\_\_\_\_ OF THANKSGIVING  
BUT TO A \_\_\_\_\_ OF GRATITUDE.

“ <sup>11</sup>Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup>and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

<sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

<sup>15</sup>One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

<sup>17</sup>Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup>Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

LUKE 17:11-19 (NIV)

## THE ONE WHO WAS THANKFUL

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## THANKFUL FOR THE BLESSINGS

“ Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.”

JAMES 1:17 (NLT)

“ Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!  
Worship the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing with joy.  
Acknowledge that the Lord is God!  
He made us, and we are his.  
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the Lord is good.  
His unfailing love continues forever,  
and his faithfulness continues to each generation.”

PSALMS 100 (NLT)

### BLESSINGS I AM THANKFUL FOR THIS YEAR:

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### THANKFUL EVEN IN THE LOSSES

“ Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you in Jesus Christ.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 (NIV)

“ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving – present your requests to God.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:6 (NIV)

### LOSSES I HAVE EXPERIENCED OVER THE LAST COUPLE YEARS:

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### WAYS I CAN GROW AND EXPERIENCE CHRIST EVEN THROUGH THE LOSSES:

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## DISCUSSION *Questions*

- 1 - What is your favorite thing about Thanksgiving? What was your Thanksgiving like as a child? Are those positive memories?
- 2 - What are some of things you are most thankful for this Thanksgiving?
- 3 - Read Luke 17:11-19
  - Why do you think Luke included this story in his Gospel? What was the main point?
  - Are there any specific details that Luke includes that you think are significant?
  - Review the five verbs in verses 15-16. If this is a model of a thankful person which of those five things would you like to work on in your life?
- 4 - Read the familiar verses from 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Philippians 4:6. What is your honest response to these Scriptures that call us to be thankful all circumstances? Is that even possible?
- 5 - What are some of the losses you would say you have experienced over the last two years? Is it possible for you to be thankful, or even grow and experience Christ in those losses?