

# Thankful

## Thankful Series

### Part 3

November 20, 2022

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 6:19-33, <sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22</sup>“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup>but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! <sup>24</sup>“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other,

or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?<sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?<sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?<sup>28</sup> And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,<sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.<sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’<sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

Today we will be continuing our series on “Thankful” as throughout this series, we have endeavored together to place emphasis on our heart and perspective of being thankful for Miracles and being thankful for Restoration. Today it will be my task to point our hearts towards thankfulness for the provision of Christ thus having a healthy perspective regarding His provision in our lives and the utilization of said provision to benefit His Kingdom through our giving and partnership with the Great Commission. Thus point #1 today...

## **1. When We are Truly Thankful for Christ’s Provision, We will see the Value of Investing our Resources into the Work of the Kingdom!**

- a. All throughout the New Testament, we can easily discover that the Early Church saw the Value of Investing themselves into the Work of the Local Church!
- b. Whether it was the collection of financial resources to help other churches in regions that were navigating famines or financially supporting missionary/evangelism efforts, the Early Church was supportive and collectively willing to rally around its faith community to support it financially for the sake of the Great Commission tasked by Christ Himself to be financially supported.

- c. The Early Church was faithful to sow their time, their talents and their treasure into the Work of the Local Church; whether it was through gathering together for prayer, utilizing their talents to facilitate certain roles within the church to assist in ministry needs, or placing their treasures into the hands of Church Leadership for the furtherment of the Church and its Ministry.
- d. The bottom line is this. They were fully committed to the Cause and the Call of the Church because they believed in it; The Church believed in The Church and it is time that we collectively, as The Assembly West Monroe, to do the same.
- e. If we truly intend to call ourselves faithful to the fundamental principles established by the Early Church itself then, Church family, there must be evidence of our time, talent and treasure being found in this House on a consistent basis.
- f. Jesus stated in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 6:19-21, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,<sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- g. With this text in mind, Church, if we treasure His Church then our Heart will be for His Church and if our Heart is for His Church then our Treasure will be found in His Church as well.
- h. Remember, when We are Truly Thankful for Christ's Provision, We will see the Value of Investing our Resources into the Work of the Kingdom!
- i. Point #2...

## **2. When We are Truly Thankful for Christ's Provision, We will Honor Christ with our Provision by Supporting His Work in the Earth!**

- a. Church family, every blessing that we have has come from the Lord and we must come to the realization that all that we have is from Him! Period. And according to the Scriptures, in both the Old Testament and in the New Testament, there is a defined and Biblically sound expectation for us to give. It is through our willingness to commit to the Church by way of our support that we understand that giving in support of the Vision of the Church is expected.
- b. But sadly, far too many are benefiting from the ministries of this Church without being willing to do anything to support this Church with your time, your talent and your treasure.

- c. Allow me to pose a comparison for proper perspective of the point that I am striving to make in so that there is clarity of intent and purpose of why I am bringing this up and addressing this issue.
- d. If you have a problem with non-citizens of the United States benefiting from your tax dollars being spent on them for their benefit without being taxed themselves, then you are guilty of the same misdeed when you seek to benefit from the Church that you attend and call your church home but do not support it financially and otherwise. If you are on this Ship then find an oar and help me row. I know that may seem harsh and perhaps quite foreword but the bottom line is this...
- e. Church family, we can't operate nor facilitate all that we do without all of you being willing to partner in your time with attendance, in your talent with volunteering, and in your treasure by way of tithes and offerings and the Heart for the House building campaign. Simply put, if you truly believe in this Church, in this faith community and in the Vision of this house; if you call this church home then I need all of you to step up and partner with me to move us forward.



f. The Prophet Malachi provides for us insight regarding this very matter in Malachi 3:6-12, **“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ <sup>8</sup>Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. <sup>9</sup>You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. <sup>10</sup>Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. <sup>11</sup>I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>12</sup>Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.”**

g. Church, our partnership with Christ includes our honoring of Christ with our increase to ensure that the ministries of His House are funded and facilitated. When we tend to His Business then He tend to our own...

- h. I can't do it without you no more than the Apostles couldn't do it without the partnership of those in the early church. To be overtly direct with all of you, it is disheartening to me as your Pastor when we hit barriers that should not exist because only a portion of the total body that gathers every Sunday is financially supporting the Church.
- i. If you want the ministries of this house to flourish and this church to continue to succeed in its mission then its time that you commit to the cause and be willing to rally behind the mission and vision of this House.
- j. Friends, the Early Church were Faithful in their giving because they knew that Christ was Faithful to Local Church and for us, it should be found to be the same or we are in error. It is time to step up and commit to the Cause!
- k. I'm sorry but I don't know of any other way to say it; it is time for us to stop consuming from the house and start contributing into the House. The one thing that I have learned in ministry is that Complainers never Contribute and Contributors never Complain; We need Contributors and Counselors in this House; not consumers who refuse to commit!



l. Remember, when We are Truly Thankful for Christ's Provision,  
We will Honor Christ with our Provision by Supporting His Work  
in the Earth!

m. In closing, Point #3...

### 3. When We are Truly Thankful for Christ's Provision, We will be Willing to Invest our Resources into an Eternal Effort!

a. Note the Words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, "We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— <sup>5</sup>and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us."

b. Just as the Churches of Macedonia, our giving is more than just pieces of paper or coinage; it is the investment of temporal means for an eternal purpose because we, just as they, gave ourselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us!

- c. Our dollars given as tithes and offerings are far more than budgets, salaries, and expenses; our giving equates to souls being saved, disciples being made, families being healed, our youth and children being ministered to and disciplined, as well as a multitude of missionaries around the globe being supported and our local community impact. The Mission of the Local Church is made possible when we Partner together with that Mission with all that we have and all that we are. Partnership in our Time, Talent and Treasure.
- d. If we are thankful for His Provision then let the proof be found in our Thankfulness of Giving and Support of this House, The Assembly West Monroe!
- e. Remember, When We are Truly Thankful for Christ's Provision, We will be willing to Invest our Resources into an Eternal Effort!