

Wk 2 Thank You JESUS!

November 22, 2025

Opening Monologue

Welcome to the AVC App, everyone! This is the Sermon and Commentary portion of the App. As you scroll down, you'll receive spiritual insights and commentary tied to this week's message. Dive in and enjoy; let it equip you deeper in God's Word!

This Sunday we conclude our short Thanksgiving series titled "Thank You J-E-S-U-S!"

Let's be honest: we have SO much to be thankful for... yet we still do our fair share of grumbling and complaining. I catch myself (and I know you never do this, right?) whining about the silliest things:

"It's too hot!"

"It's too cold!"

"What am I going to eat tonight?"

I grumble over petty stuff, yet I have a furnace and air conditioning, a refrigerator, and a pantry full of food. Hmm...

In many ways, we're no different than the Israelites in the Old Testament. God delivered them out of literal bondage and slavery, and still they complained about the food after they were set free (Numbers 11). When we look at God's provision and say, "That's not good enough," we rob ourselves of blessing. Most of that generation never made it into the Promised Land.

So let me ask:

Do we whine more than we worship?

Grumble more than we give thanks?

Complain more than we cooperate?

Argue more than we solve problems?

Point fingers more than we look in the mirror?

If that's true, then where is our "Thank You, Jesus!"?

Scripture says: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." (Psalm 100:4-5)

This Sunday we're going deeper into this truth. And just like last week, we will proclaim God's precious, unbreakable promises straight from His Word and shout together: THANK YOU, JESUS!
Come ready to be encouraged and equipped by the living Word of God!

In Christ,
Rev. Brad Standfest

To Listen to this week's Sermon: "Week 2- Thank You JESUS!" Go to the Sermon tab here in our APP or use the links to our website or YouTube Channel where you can also listen to our Sermons:

Web: <https://www.almontvineyardchurch.org/media>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/@almontvineyardchurch>

Key Sermon Texts

Psalm 100:4-5 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20100%3A4-5&version=NIV>

Romans 8:38-39 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%208%3A38-39&version=NIV>

1 John 3:1
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%203%3A1&version=NIV>

Hebrews 13:5-6
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2013%3A5-6&version=NIV>

2 Timothy 1:9 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%201%3A9&version=NIV>

Jude 1:24-25 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude%201%3A24-25&version=NIV>

Romans 5:5 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A5&version=NIV>

Revelation 21:4-5 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021%3A4-5&version=NIV>

Revelation 22:4 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021%3A4-5&version=NIV>

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2015%3A54-57&version=NIV>

Thank You Jesus - Words to Ponder

We have been given so much—breath in our lungs, roofs over our heads, food in our cupboards, clean water at the turn of a faucet—yet how quickly we complain about the smallest inconveniences. What if, for just a moment, we remembered the hundreds of millions across the globe who wake up every day fighting for a single meal or a cup of clean water? What if we saw the children who live surrounded by filth while we grumble because the Wi-Fi is slow or the coffee is cold?

No, we don't have it so bad after all.

So don't let the cares of this life suck the thanksgiving out of your heart. Don't let disappointment, delay, or discomfort steal your praise. Instead, let us pray daily that God would plant and protect a spirit of deep, never-fading gratitude in us.

Let us do exactly what the Psalmist commands:

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”
(Psalm 100:4-5)

And as we enter His presence with thanksgiving, let us boldly proclaim His precious, unbreakable promises over our lives and, with every promise, lift our hearts and voices to say: Thank You, Jesus...

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers... will be

able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38–39) Thank You, Jesus...

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1) – Thank You, Jesus...

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you... The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” (Hebrews 13:5–6) –Thank You, Jesus...

“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.” (2 Timothy 1:9)– Thank You, Jesus...

“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory... forevermore!” (Jude 1:24–25) – Thank You, Jesus...

“Because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” (Romans 5:5) –Thank You, Jesus...

One day You will wipe every tear from our eyes... the old order of things will pass away... and You will make everything new! (Revelation 21:4–5) –Thank You, Jesus...

We will see Your face, and Your name will be on our foreheads forever. (Revelation 22:4) –Thank You, Jesus...

“Death has been swallowed up in victory... Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:54–57) So today, tomorrow, and every day after—whatever comes—let these words rise from grateful hearts: THANK YOU, JESUS!

Amen and amen.

(1, Rev. Standfest)

Commentary on Main Scriptures

Thank You, Jesus - A Verse-by-Verse Summary Commentary (Short Reflections)

Psalm 100:4–5: “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is

good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Life Application / Spurgeon: “God has set a double fence around His presence—thanksgiving and praise. No one enters His courts with a grumbling spirit and lives to tell about it.” The Hebrew word for “thanksgiving” (tôdâ) literally means “the extension of the hand in adoration.” Gratitude is not a feeling we wait for; it is an act of worship we choose. The reasons given are eternal: God’s goodness never fluctuates, His covenant love (hesed) never expires, and His faithfulness is generational—your children’s children will still be singing about it.

Romans 8:38-39: Nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Life Application / Piper:

Paul lists ten of the most terrifying realities in the universe—death, demons, height, depth, the future—and then says, “None of them get the final word.” The love of God is not a fragile thread; it is the unbreakable cable that holds the universe together. When we complain, we are momentarily living as if one of those ten things is stronger than the cross. Thanksgiving is simply agreeing with Paul’s conclusion: “I am convinced.”

1 John 3:1: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

Life Application / Matthew Henry: The word “lavished” is the language of a Father who throws open the treasury doors and says, “Take whatever you need—there’s more where that came from.” The world doesn’t recognize us because it never recognized Him. Every time we forget we are royalty and whine like orphans, we dishonor the family name.

Hebrews 13:5-6: “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you... The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.”

Life Application / New American Commentary:

In Greek it is a triple negative stacked on top of a double negative: “I will never, ever, under no circumstances whatsoever leave you.” God

said it to Jacob at Bethel, to Joshua before Jericho, to Israel in Deuteronomy, and now to you. If the God who spoke galaxies into existence refuses to walk out on you, complaining becomes the height of absurdity.

2 Timothy 1:9: “He has saved us and called us... not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.”

Life Application / Tyndale Commentary:

Every breath you took today was a gift you did not earn. Every meal, every friend, every sunrise—unmerited favor. Grumbling is the voice of entitlement; thanksgiving is the voice of a beggar who has been made a son.

Jude 1:24-25: “To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy...”

Life Application / Spurgeon:

Notice the order: God keeps us from falling, then He presents us faultless, and the result is “great joy”—His joy over us! The same hands that will one day wipe every tear are the hands holding you up right now. That truth turns every trial into a platform for praise.

Romans 5:5: “Hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit...”

Life Application / ESV Study Bible:

“Poured out” is the same verb used when the Spirit fell at Pentecost—violent, abundant, unstoppable. Your heart is not a trickle-fed reservoir; it is a Spirit-flooded river. Thanksgiving keeps the river flowing; complaining is trying to dam Niagara Falls with a teaspoon. Revelation 21:4-5: “He will wipe every tear... the old order of things has passed away... ‘I am making everything new!’”

Life Application / Word Biblical Commentary:

Every disappointment you face today is part of the “old order” that is already bankrupt and scheduled for demolition. The King on the throne has already signed the renovation contract. Gratitude is living as if moving day has already begun.

Revelation 22:4: “They will see his face, and his name will be on

their foreheads.”

Life Application / Matthew Henry: The greatest privilege of heaven is not golden streets or endless health—it is seeing Jesus face-to-face, forever. Every time we choose gratitude now, we are rehearsing for the day when our eyes will never leave His.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57: “Death has been swallowed up in victory... Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Life Application / Charles Spurgeon:

Paul doesn’t say “thank you” politely—he shouts it. The greatest enemy humanity has ever faced has been publicly humiliated and swallowed whole. If God has already handled the biggest problem we will ever face, every smaller problem becomes an opportunity to practice resurrection praise.

What the Bible Really Means When It Says “Give Thanks”

Every year around Thanksgiving many of us gather with family, eat turkey, watch football, and say we’re thankful. That’s good! But have you ever wondered what the Bible actually means when it tells us over and over to “give thanks”? It’s a lot bigger and more life-changing than just saying “thank you” for food or health. Here’s the heart of what the scholars have discovered when they dig deep into the original languages and history of Scripture.

1. “Thanksgiving” in the Bible is not mainly about the stuff we get

In our everyday English, when we say “thanks” we usually mean: “I like what you gave me.”

In the Bible, thanksgiving is first of all about WHO God is and what He has already done as Creator and Savior.

The Greek word that Paul uses most (eucharistia / eucharisteō) started out in the Greek world as simple gratitude, but by the time of Jesus and Paul it had become the main way to praise and worship God.

2. In the Old Testament they didn’t have a single word that

means exactly “thank you” the way we use it That surprises people! Hebrew uses words like:

- tôdâh – a “thank-offering” or song of grateful praise after God rescued you
- hallel – “praise” (Hallelujah = “Praise the Lord!”)
- bārak – “to bless” God (which is really praising Him for His goodness)

So when an Old Testament believer wanted to say thanks, they usually burst into praise, song, or a sacrifice that declared, “Look how great God is!”

Example: Psalm 100:4 “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and bless his name.”

Thanksgiving, praise, and blessing all flow together. You can’t really separate them.

3. When we get to the New Testament, “thanksgiving” and “praise” become almost the same thing Paul almost never uses the normal Old Testament word for praise (aineō).

Instead he uses “thanksgiving” words more than 40 times! Why? Because for Paul, thanking God is the most natural way to worship the God who raised Jesus from the dead.

Look at the Lord’s Supper: sometimes the Gospels say Jesus “blessed” the bread, sometimes they say He “gave thanks.” Same act! Both are worship.

4. True biblical thanksgiving is God-centered, not me-centered

Modern thanksgiving often sounds like: “I’m thankful for my house, my job, my family...”

Biblical thanksgiving sounds like: “Everything good comes from YOU, Lord. You made all things. You saved me when I was helpless. I owe You everything.”

That’s why Paul can tell us to give thanks “for everything” (Eph 5:20) and “in all circumstances” (1 Thess 5:18). He’s not saying “pretend bad things are good.” He’s saying: No matter what is happening, God is still the good Creator and Redeemer, and that never changes.

5. Thanksgiving reminds us we are not self-made

Sin started when Adam and Eve acted like they didn't need God.

Ingratitude is still the root of pride today.

Real thanksgiving is humble. It says, "Everything I have is a gift. I brought nothing into this world. Only You, God, are the true Owner and Giver."

David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29 shows this perfectly: "Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

6. Thanksgiving and prayer belong together

Paul never separates them.

Philippians 4:6 - "In every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

When we pray with thanksgiving first, we remember who is really in charge. We stop treating God like a vending machine and start treating Him like the loving Father and King that He is.

7. Thanksgiving is meant to be a way of life

Colossians 3:17 - "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Eating, working, singing, suffering, rejoicing—everything can become an act of worship when it flows out of a thankful heart that knows Jesus is Lord of all.

So this Thanksgiving (and every day), try this:

1. Start with God, not your stuff.

"Lord, You made the heavens and the earth. You sent Your Son to die for me while I was still a sinner. That alone is enough to thank You forever."

2. Let thanks turn into praise.

Sing, shout, tell someone, post it, pray it—let it overflow!

3. Live humbly and joyfully, knowing every breath is a gift.

(From scholarly work of David W. Pao, Thanksgiving an Investigation of Pauline Theme, InterVarsity Press)

Wayne Grudem on Thanksgiving and Praise: Insights from Systematic Theology (Summary Snapshot)

1. Thanksgiving and Praise as Essential Elements of Prayer (Chapter 18: Prayer)

Grudem defines prayer broadly as “personal communication with God,” encompassing not only petitions but also “confession of sin, adoration, praise and thanksgiving, and also God communicating to us indications of his response.” He stresses that prayer is relational, mirroring God’s triune nature as persons in eternal communion, and thus thanksgiving and praise are non-negotiable for genuine dependence on Him. These elements prevent prayer from becoming a mere “shopping list” of requests, instead cultivating a posture of childlike trust.

Verbatim Excerpt on Praise and Thanksgiving in Prayer (pp. 377-378):

“D. Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise and thanksgiving to God, are an essential element of prayer.

The model prayer that Jesus left us begins with a word of praise:

‘Hallowed be your name’ (Matt. 6:9). And Paul tells the Philippians, ‘in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God’ (Phil. 4:6), and the Colossians, ‘Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving’ (Col. 4:2).

Thanksgiving, like every other aspect of prayer, should not be a mechanical mouthing of a ‘thank you’ to God, but the expression of words that reflect the thankfulness of our hearts. Moreover, we should never think that thanking God for the answer to something we ask for can somehow force God to give it to us, for that changes the prayer from a genuine, sincere request to a demand that assumes we can make God do what we want him to do. Such a spirit in our prayers

really denies the essential nature of prayer as dependence on God. By contrast, the kind of thanksgiving that appropriately accompanies prayer must express thankfulness to God for all circumstances, for every event of life that he allows to come to us. When we join our prayers with humble, childlike thanksgiving to God ‘in all circumstances’ (1 Thess. 5:18), they will be acceptable to God.”

Biblical Exegesis:

* • *Matthew 6:9* (“*Hallowed be your name*”):* Grudem sees this as the starting point of the Lord’s Prayer, modeling praise (adoration) as reverence for God’s holiness before any petitions. It echoes the Psalms’ calls to “enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise” (Ps. 100:4), prioritizing God’s glory over human needs.

• **Philippians 4:6 and Colossians 4:2:** These Pauline exhortations link thanksgiving directly to supplication and steadfast prayer, portraying it as a safeguard against anxiety (Phil. 4:6–7 promises “the peace of God” as a result). Grudem notes the Greek *eucharistia* (thanksgiving) implies active gratitude, not passive acknowledgment.

• **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (“Give thanks in all circumstances”):** This command underscores universality—thanksgiving is God’s will “in Christ Jesus for you,” applicable in trials (e.g., Job 1:20–21) or blessings, reflecting trust in God’s sovereignty (Rom. 8:28).

Theological Explanation: Grudem argues that thanksgiving combats the sin of ingratitude (Rom. 1:21, where ungrateful hearts lead to idolatry), fostering humility and dependence. Praise, as adoration, magnifies God’s attributes (e.g., His wrath against sin in Chapter 16, which we thank Him for as it upholds justice; Heb. 1:9). Both are empowered by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26–27), aligning prayer with God’s will (1 John 5:14) and deepening fellowship. Without them, prayer risks becoming manipulative; with them, it becomes “pleasing incense” (Rev. 5:8; 8:3–4), resulting in praise at Christ’s revelation (1 Pet. 1:7).

Practical Applications:

• **Daily Integration:** Begin prayers with adoration (e.g., reciting attributes from Isaiah 40 or Psalms), followed by thanksgiving for “every good and perfect gift” (James 1:17). Grudem suggests listing

gifts in five minutes to combat forgetfulness, then praying over them.

- **In Trials:** Like David after his child's death (2 Sam. 12:20) or Job amid loss (Job 1:20–21), shift from lament to thanksgiving, affirming "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

****• Corporate Prayer:** **In church, model Philippians 4:6 by voicing collective thanks, building unity and edification (Eph. 5:19–20).

2. Thanksgiving and Praise in the Context of Worship (Chapter 51: Worship)

Grudem narrows worship here to "the activity of glorifying God in his presence with our voices and hearts," especially in corporate assembly (though all life glorifies God; 1 Cor. 10:31). He builds on Chapter 18, expanding thanksgiving and praise into singing, teaching, and heart attitudes, arguing they fulfill humanity's purpose: created for God's glory (Isa. 43:7; Eph. 1:12). Worship is both response to God's worthiness and means of delighting in Him.

Verbatim Excerpt on the Definition and Purpose of Worship (pp. 1009–1010):

"Worship is the activity of glorifying God in his presence with our voices and hearts. In this definition we note that worship is an act of glorifying God. Yet all aspects of our lives are supposed to glorify God, so this definition specifies that worship is something we do especially when we come into God's presence, when we are conscious of adoration of him in our hearts, and when we praise him with our voices and speak about him so others may hear. Paul encourages the Christians in Colossae, 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God' (Col. 3:16).

In fact, the primary reason that God called us into the assembly of the church is that as a corporate assembly we might worship him...

Worship is therefore a direct expression of our ultimate purpose for living, 'to glorify God and fully to enjoy him forever.' God speaks of his 'sons' and 'daughters' as 'every one who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory whom I formed and made' (Isa. 43:6–7). And Paul uses similar language when he says that 'we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his

glory' (Eph. 1:12). Scripture is clear here and in many other passages that God created us to glorify him."

Verbatim Excerpt on Singing with Thanksgiving and Praise (pp. 1012-1013):

"Day by day... they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God (Acts 2:46)... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God (Col. 3:16)... speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father (Eph. 5:19-20)."

Biblical Exegesis:

- **Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19-20:** Singing is thanksgiving-filled praise, teaching/admonishing via "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." Grudem distinguishes these as Old Testament-inspired songs (psalms), praises of God's attributes (hymns), and spontaneous Spirit-led expressions (spiritual songs), all fostering mutual edification.

- **Isaiah 43:6-7 and Ephesians 1:12:** Humanity's creation for "praise of his glory" makes worship our telos (end goal), fulfilled in assembly (Heb. 10:25) and heaven (Rev. 4:11: "You are worthy... to receive glory and honor and power").

- **Acts 2:46 and Revelation 4-5:** Early church praise post-meals/Supper models joyful, generous hearts; heavenly worship (seraphim's "Holy, holy, holy" in Isa. 6:3; elders' casting crowns in Rev. 4:10-11) sets the pattern for earthly adoration.

Theological Explanation: Praise in worship declares God's jealousy for His honor (Ex. 20:5; Isa. 48:11), rejecting creature-worship (Rev. 22:8-9). Thanksgiving consecrates creation (1 Tim. 4:4-5), received as "sanctified by the word of God and prayer." Both result in delight (Ps. 16:11: "In your presence there is fullness of joy"), nearness to God (James 4:8), and empowerment by the Spirit (John 4:23-24: worship "in spirit and truth"). Grudem warns against self-glorifying elements (e.g., manipulative thanks), emphasizing heart attitudes like

reverence/awe (Heb. 12:28–29: “our God is a consuming fire”).

Practical Applications:

- **Corporate Worship Design:** Evaluate services (preaching, music, Lord’s Supper) for God-focus; include direct-address songs (e.g., “Holy, holy” refrains) to enhance praise.
- **Personal Preparation:** Pray for Spirit-empowerment (Luke 1:46–47: Mary’s spirit rejoices); reconcile relationships first (Matt. 5:23–24) to ensure “acceptable worship.”
- **In the Lord’s Supper:** “What great cause for thanksgiving and joy is to be found in this Supper of the Lord! ... when I participate I come into the presence of Christ; I remember that he died for me; I participate in the benefits of his death; I receive spiritual nourishment; and I am united with all other believers... In this way sorrow, joy, thanksgiving, and deep love for Christ are richly intermingled.”

Broader Theological Integration and Why It Matters

Grudem weaves thanksgiving and praise throughout: in creation (Chapter 15: thank for gifts, James 1:17), miracles (Chapter 17: glorify answers), assurance (Chapter 40: fellowship via prayer), and even death (Chapter 41: praise amid loss). Theologically, they combat unbelief (Mark 11:24 requires faith-filled praise) and promote holiness (Prov. 15:8: God delights in the upright’s prayer). As Grudem concludes in his preface (p. 13), theology—including these practices—“is meant to be LIVED and PRAYED and SUNG! All of the great doctrinal writings of the Bible... are full of praise to God and personal application to life.”

Resources: Rev. Brad Standfest, (1) Logos Bible Program, Walter A. Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort, Guzik, David, Life Application Bible Commentary, Factbook Logos bible, Barton, Bruce B., and Philip Wesley Comfort. 1995. Life Application Study Bible , Logos Bible Software resources including the New American Commentary, Pillar New Testament Commentary, Word Biblical Commentary, ESV Study Bible, Tyndale Commentary, and classic voices like Matthew Henry, Charles Spurgeon, and John Piper

Sermon Notes: Week 2: Thank You J-E-S-U-S!

Good morning, AVC family, and good morning to everyone joining us online! Welcome!

I wish every single one of you a very Happy Thanksgiving week. My prayer today is that the joy of Jesus would flood your hearts and overflow into every room of your home this season.

Can you believe it? Thanksgiving is only four days away! Time is flying.

Before we dive into God's Word, let me quickly remind you of our AVC connection:

YouTube channel, Church App, Facebook and our website

Everything you need is right there. If you missed last week's message, go catch it on YouTube or the app – you'll be blessed.

Let's pray together...

We're in week 2 of our Thanksgiving series called "Thank You JESUS!"

And that's exactly what we're going to do again today – we're going to thank Him with everything in us.

Let's just be honest for a second: we have so much to be thankful for.

Yet, if we're real, we still do our fair share of grumbling and complaining, don't we?

Now I know y'all are perfect little angels (smile), but I find myself complaining about the silliest things sometimes:

- "This traffic is moving so slow!"
- "What am I gonna eat tonight?" (while the fridge and cupboards are packed)
- "It's too hot... it's too cold..." (and we have heat and AC!)
- "They cooked my steak a little too much..."

(True story – I actually complained at a Mexican restaurant the other night because they burnt my food really bad)

But here's the thing: in the Old Testament, the Lord literally broke the chains of Egyptian slavery off His people. He delivered them with miracle after miracle. He was leading them straight to the Promised Land – a land flowing with milk and honey, a little preview of heaven on earth. And every morning He rained down miraculous manna from heaven itself so they would never go hungry.

And what did they do? They complained about the manna.

Listen to what they actually said (Numbers 11): “If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost – also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have no appetite... nothing but this manna!”

They were basically saying to God: “What You’ve given us is not good enough.”

Church, every time we grumble, every time we say “This isn’t good enough,” we rob ourselves of the blessings God is trying to pour into our lives right now.

Dr. Scott says it this way: “Constant grumbling – like Israel’s endless complaints in the wilderness despite all the miracles – actually puts us on trial against the Lord. It blocks the Promised-Land blessings waiting for us. We need a total attitude reset through Scripture. It’s not about denying real hardship; it’s about refusing to let discontent define us. The wilderness is meant to be a place of growth, not a place of gripe sessions.”

So let me ask us some hard questions today:

Is it possible...

- That we whine more than we are thankful?
- That we grumble more than we praise?
- That we complain more than we cooperate?
- That we argue more than we work to solve issues?
- That we blame everybody else instead of looking in the mirror?

The Psalmist gives us the antidote in Psalm 100:4-5: “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Thanksgiving is the doorway that ushers the very presence of God into our lives. When we praise, we step into His courts – we step into His nearness.

So just like we did last week, we're going to flood this atmosphere with thanksgiving today.

I'm going to read a promise straight from God's Word, and after every single one, we're all going to declare together: "Thank You, Jesus!"

Let's put thanksgiving in the air!

1. Romans 8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Church, say it loud: Thank You, Jesus!

2. 1 John 3:1: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" Thank You, Jesus!

3. Hebrews 13:5-6: "...because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.'" Thank You, Jesus!

4. 2 Timothy 1:9: "He has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time." Thank You, Jesus!

5. Jude 1:24-25: "To him who is able to keep you from

stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Savior be glory... through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Thank You, Jesus!

6. Romans 5:5: “And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” Thank You, Jesus!

7. Revelation 21:4-5: “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away... ‘I am making everything new!’... These words are trustworthy and true.” Thank You, Jesus!

8. Revelation 22:4: “They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.” Thank You, Jesus!

9. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57: “‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Thank You, Jesus!

The Holy Spirit just dropped the mic!

As we get ready to gather around our Thanksgiving tables this week, let’s carry this spirit of gratitude everywhere we go.

Worship team, come on up. We’re going to close by singing one of my favorites: “God, You’re So Good.”

Let’s stand together and give Him the loudest, most grateful praise we’ve got! Thank You, Jesus!

Closing Prayer

Amen! Happy Thanksgiving, AVC family – we love you!

Thank you Jesus Devotional Questions & Applications

Read the passages and reflect on the questions below.

1. Psalm 100:4-5

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Question: What specific “gates” has Jesus opened for you this year (salvation, provision, healing, relationships, etc.) that make you want to run into His presence saying, “Thank You, Jesus, for Your goodness and never-ending love”?

2. Romans 8:38-39 & Hebrews 13:5-6

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord... Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Question: When have you felt most tempted to believe you were alone or unloved? How does the unbreakable promise of Jesus’ constant presence move you to thank Him right now?

3. 1 John 3:1

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

Question: If you truly believed today that Jesus looks at you with the same delight a perfect Father has for His child, how would your heart respond in thanksgiving? Take a moment and tell Him, “Thank You, Jesus, for making me Your own.”

4. 2 Timothy 1:9 & Romans 5:5

“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace... And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”

Question: Jesus saved you and filled your heart with His love purely by grace. What area of your life still tries to “earn” His love instead of simply receiving it? Thank Him out loud for loving you before you ever loved Him.

5. Jude 1:24-25

“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory...”

Question: Picture Jesus Himself presenting you faultless and joyful before the Father. What fears or feelings of unworthiness melt away in that moment? Whisper, “Thank You, Jesus, for keeping me and making me blameless in Your sight.”

6. Revelation 21:4-5 & 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes... ‘Behold, I am making all things new!’ ... Death has been swallowed up in victory... But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Question: Because of the cross and the empty tomb, every loss, pain, and even death itself will one day be reversed. What current heartache or past wound are you laying at Jesus’ feet today, thanking Him in advance for the day He makes it completely new?

7. Revelation 22:4

“They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.”

Question: The ultimate promise is that one day you will see Jesus face-to-face and live in perfect, unending fellowship with Him. How does that future hope stir your heart to thank Him right now for the privilege of belonging to Him forever?