

November 25, Happy Thanksgiving

James 3:11-13 (NIV) ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. ¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Black Friday deals have been in the news for weeks. Christmas sales have been advertised for weeks. Decorations can be seen popping up in stores, on homes, and in advertisements. Despite the economic woes that surround us, people are spending more that experts had predicted. Thanksgiving seems to have become only a reminder of the Christmas holidays that lie ahead. Yet, we cannot truly appreciate Christmas without giving thanks to the One Who gives meaning to everything created.

As I thought about this Thanksgiving devotion, I came across this passage from James. It is a reminder that we cannot live in the world and in the Kingdom of God at the same time. We exist in one or the other. If we are in the world, then we cannot bear good fruit or living water. Jesus, because of His love and by His sacrifice, offers us a choice: His abundant life or the world. When we choose Him, we are filled with His Holy Spirit, Who enables us to live a good life. That is a good life by God's standards and not by the world's. That is the best reason for our desire to give Him thanks. Every day is a day to thank Him, not that we are not sinners like others but because we now can live a good life. That good life is defined our deeds that are done in humility. They stem from the wisdom of God, ignoring the every-changing wisdom of the world. Our humility is birthed in knowing that we have done nothing to deserve this wisdom. It is given to each of us Who believe. Giving thanks to the Lord for all His blessings helps to keep us humble as we seek to touch those around us. Give thanks with a grateful and humble heart.