

"The gesture of thanks moves both the giver and receiver to another level.

It expresses a unity; it solidifies a relationship.

We start out with a giver, a gift and a receiver, and we arrive at the embrace of thanks.

Thanks is expressed and then accepted by the giver.
And in the final kiss of gratitude, it's impossible to distinguish the giver from the receiver."

(Don Postema, Space for God)

Somehow, my King, because You love and desire to use me, You are protecting, refining and transforming my heart through thanksgiving. I am living in the reality of the belief that "nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

I am surrounded by challenges that even a few short years ago would have caused me to run away -- yet in the middle of it all, I have Your peace -- which "transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

A Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving to all !

Why not keep each other up-to-date with the latest news in our community?
If you have any interesting articles you would like to share or announcements to make,
we invite you to submit them for publication in our
Living Water bulletin.

Email to: BLD_Toronto_Word@googlegroups.com
Submission Deadline: Mondays @ midnight
Content: Ideally half of an 11 x 8 ½ page sheet
Format: Word Document
Limitation: Subject to space availability



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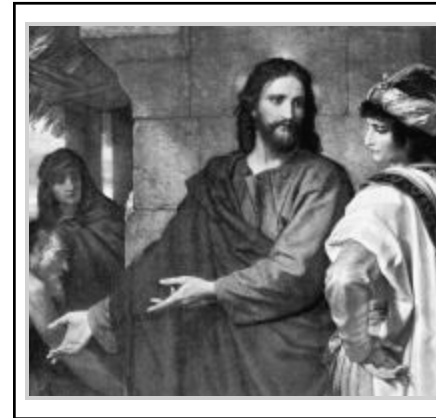


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BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS • OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD
Toronto District

Counsel for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



REFLECTION:

In the gospel of Mark, when a rich man asked Jesus how he can gain eternal life, Jesus instructs the rich man to go beyond obeying the prescribed commandments saying "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" Mk 10:21-23

THEME:

We are faithful to Christ when we renounce our worldliness and follow His word.

WORD:

Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30

ORDER:

"go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." Mk 10:20

It is a lot easier to accept the world's view (or wisdom) on how to live our lives because most of what the world encourages us to strive for, such as fame, power and fortune, provide us with material and physical pleasures in life. Jesus knows that once we get a taste of these pleasures, we find it very difficult to give them up.

Contrast this with Jesus' message for us to give

away our material possessions to the poor and take up our crosses and follow him, suffering persecution along the way in exchange for the promise of treasures in heaven and eternal life.

First - The benefits of this world are tangible and appear real to us, while Jesus' promised benefits cannot be touched or seen or proven by worldly standards. It's no surprise that we find a lot of unbelievers in our midst.

Second – Following the way of the world physically benefits us, while Jesus' way physically benefits others. Faced with a new proposition, our instinct, sad to say, is often to ask 'well, what's in it for me?' And 'what's in it for me' often overrides consideration for the greater good. We think first of ourselves before we think of others and/or what is pleasing to God. Plain and simple: we are the "Me" generation.

We now live in a society where right seems wrong and where wrong seems right. The Canadian government has decreed that abortion is the rightful choice of a woman and that same sex marriage is ok and is an acceptable basis of a family unit. When questioned about his pro-choice stance, an ex-Prime Minister of Canada openly stated that his duty as a Prime Minister came first and his duty as a Catholic came second. In the USA, there is a very strong grassroots move to ban prayer in schools and other public institutions because it infringes on the rights of atheists.

As Catholics living in this self-centered, confusing world, we need God's wisdom to be able to make the right choices in situations we encounter in life. Where we find God's wisdom is in the Word of God. The Holy Bible contains the true wisdom that this world cannot give. By studying the Word of God, we will know how Jesus wants us to live our lives --- to be Christ-centered and neighbor-centered and to embrace our cross.

The lure of the material pleasures of the world is quite strong. Can we really fight the temptations of Satan and remain faithful to Christ's teachings and commandments? By our own capabilities, we probably cannot but with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we certainly can. For Jesus said *"For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."* Mk 10:27

DIRECTION:

- ❖ Let the favour of the Lord be upon us and let His hands be over all our plans.
- ❖ Let us trust in the power of the Word of God, which is living and active at all times.

GOD'S PROMISE:

- ❖ "All things are possible for God." (Mark 10:27b)
- ❖ (God will) "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart." (Ps 90:12)

Thanksgiving

by Bruce Wright

What does THANKSGIVING mean to you?

I hear one boy say, "It means a big dinner." I think we all agree with him. Who does not welcome and enjoy a good dinner!

I hear Mary say, "Thanksgiving means a day off from school." I guess you are right too. School is not such a charming place that girls and boys are unwilling to have an occasional holiday.

There is a young woman. She is a stenographer. She says, "Thanksgiving means a day away from the office. I am at the office every day except Sunday, and I do appreciate, now and then, a day that is really my own."

Yonder, a traveling salesman, says, "It means a day at home. Last year I spent one hundred and sixty-nine nights away from home. I have three children. I should like to see them every day. There are times when many days pass and I do not see them. Thanksgiving week I plan to be at home."

There are others I could ask. Each has his answer. But Thanksgiving has a special meaning for us. It is the HARVEST TIME. I have here an apple. Isn't this a beautiful apple? What color! Who mixed the paints, who handled the brush to give such color to this apple? God. He, in his infinite love and wisdom, has provided, through the unfailing laws of nature, for the growth, sweetness, coloring and beautifying of all the products of the fields. This apple is but one of many kinds of fruits.

PRAISE, then, is the great meaning of Thanksgiving. God, our heavenly Father, sends us every good gift. From his bountiful hand come our daily and nightly mercies. We should praise him every day. But the day for the united chorus of praise is THANKSGIVING

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him and bless his name.
For Jehovah is good. His unfailing love continues forever,
And his faithfulness continues to each generation.

Psalm 100

