

Acts of Kindness Change the World

Luke 12:13-21

11/23/25

Acts of Kindness change the World! We have asked you to think of thankful thoughts here at NPC. Here are my thankful thoughts: bell choir, fireplace, Sunday School, top notch Christian Education, our Deacons, our bereavement team, by the power of Christ's Holy Spirit we attempt to teach and demonstrate Act of Kindness. We Christians proclaim that God's Son died for our sins, the Act of Kindness that changes the world, that changes us. The Christian life is nothing but Thanksgiving.

Yesterday, our family participated in and witnessed 240 volunteers pack 60,000 meals for Amen to Action at the Friends Thrift Shop in Export. These meals are Acts of Kindness that change the world. A big way to become rich toward God!

How are you rich toward God? "This very night your life is being demanded of you!" -Luke 12:20

Acts of Kindness show that Jesus lives and desires to live in us. Here lies the mystery of faith. Here lies the mystery of life. Here is the way to unlock the joy code and be rich toward God. Most of us search for happiness, but we search in the wrong places. It doesn't matter if it is 2025, or year 33AD. Maybe it's in vacations? Maybe it's in moving up in our jobs? Maybe it's in the next drink? Maybe it's in the next bite? But we all know happiness is temporary. Happiness happens to us. Jesus shows us the way to experience everlasting joy. How does God respond to a sinful and broken world? How does God want us to be rich? Generously give as Jesus generously gives His life for ours.

In Matthew 25, Jesus teaches how to be rich toward God. If this is the night your life is demanded of you, Jesus will ask, "When I was hungry did you give me food? When I was thirsty did you give me something to drink? When I was a stranger did you welcome me? When I was naked did you give me clothing? When I was sick did you take care of me? When I was in prison did you visit me?" We all know in our souls Acts of Kindness Change the World.

Let's listen to a story of Thanksgiving in Luke 17:11-19.

Which President instituted Thanksgiving? It's a bit tricky. "In 1789, Elias Boudinot, New Jersey, member of the House of Representatives, moved that a day of Thanksgiving be held to thank God for giving the American people the opportunity to create a Constitution to preserve their hard won freedoms. A Congressional Joint Committee approved the motion, and informed President George Washington. On October 3, 1789, the President proclaimed that the people of the United States observe "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer" on Thursday, the 26th of November." But that observation was sporadic over the next 75 years. "Most of the credit for the establishment of an annual Thanksgiving holiday may be given to Sarah Josepha Hale. Editor of Ladies Magazine and Godey's Lady's Book, she began to agitate for such a day in 1827 by printing articles in the magazines. She also published stories and recipes, and wrote scores of

letters to governors, senators, and presidents. After 36 years of crusading, she won her battle. On October 3, 1863, buoyed by the Union victory at Gettysburg, President Lincoln proclaimed that November 26, would be a national Thanksgiving Day, to be observed every year on the fourth Thursday of November.

Only twice has a president changed the day of observation. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in order to give depression-era merchants more selling days before Christmas, assigned the third Thursday to be Thanksgiving Day in 1939 and 1940. But he was met with popular resistance, largely because the change required rescheduling Thanksgiving Day events such as football games and parades. In 1941, a Congressional Joint Resolution officially set the fourth Thursday of November as a national holiday for Thanksgiving.”¹ It wasn’t a President, it was us.

Twice, Jesus uses the Samaritan as the faithful one. The first time is when he tells the story of the good Samaritan after a lawyer asks Jesus, “What is the meaning of life?” This would be like Jesus showing up in Israel today and using Palestinians as the example. Showing up in Palestine and using Israelis as the example. Showing up in Ukraine and using Russians as the example. Showing up in Russia and using Ukrainians as the example. And hear in America, you pick who your perceived enemy is! Why? Why does Jesus point out the perceived enemy as the one who is faithful? Why does Jesus point out the perceived enemy in a state of thanksgiving. To remind us we are all God’s children and to show us anyone can be a friend of God even our perceived enemies. To teach us it is not what we look like, or what ethnicity we are, but the most important thing to do is to live a life of gratitude. The most important thing is belief. Belief that informs KIND action!

Generous living is our thank you to God. The good Samaritan generously gives his time and money. Jesus tells the lawyer, Jesus tells us the meaning of life is generosity. Invest in Jesus’ life-changing business to inspire Acts of Kindness. Pain, death, and sin do not have the last word. The Christian life is in joyful response to Christ’s love for us on the cross. Invest in Jesus’ life-changing business to inspire Acts of Kindness to change the world.

Now in Luke 17, Jesus lives out the Good Samaritan story. 10 people call out for help and Jesus says, “Go and worship.” **For Jesus, showing up for worship is the simplest way to say thank you to God.** Investing your time in worship is one of the simplest ways to say thank you to God.

Generous living is our thank you to God. Count your blessings. No matter where you are in life count your blessings. Be aware of the good things in your life. Be aware of what God has done for you as Jesus Christ. The Christian life is Thanksgiving.

Fall at the feet of Jesus and thank Him for forgiveness. Thank Him for showing you the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Don’t be like the 90% of the world that doesn’t recognize what God has done for us as Jesus Christ. The other 9 maybe healed but not complete. The other 9 maybe healed but not at peace. The other 9 maybe healed but do not have life. The other 9 maybe

¹ <https://www.si.edu/spotlight/thanksgiving/history>

healed, but they do not have....eternal life, meaningful life, intentional life. Thanksgiving is not one day, for Christians, Thanksgiving is life!

Your faith will make you well! Trusting Jesus is ultimately believing that when you die there is nothing to fear. You have already been judged. You have already nailed your sins to the cross of Jesus Christ. You now live a life of Thanksgiving.

Friends if you want to be complete, give your life to Jesus Christ. Make Him the Lord of your life. Friends if you want to live the life of Thanksgiving and change the world through acts of Kindness, fall at the feet of Jesus and worship. If you desire to experience joy, give generously as Jesus gives! You can't have joy without generosity, and you can't have generosity without joy! If you desire to change the world, pray to Jesus this very moment, for Jesus lives and desires to live in you!

Love,
Pastor Curtis

1. How are you rich toward God? "This very night your life is being demanded of you!" -Luke 12:20
2. What Spiritual practices do you practice? "Go and show yourselves to the priests?" -Luke 17:14
3. How would others recognize that you live a life of Thanksgiving? "He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Jesus. And he was a Samaritan!" -Luke 17:16