

Devoted to Prayer: Thanksgiving

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 1</i></p> <p>Read Matthew 11: 25 and John 11:40-42</p> <p>These are prayers Jesus prayed. Both have something in common. What is it?</p> <p>It seems simple really. If Jesus, the One we follow, gave thanks then we should too.</p> <p>Read Psalm 136: 1-3</p> <p>Giving thanks is not something we do when we feel like it... or because our life is great.</p> <p>We give thanks because His Word tells us to, because Jesus set the example. Thanksgiving is not a marked day on our calendars, it's a part of our daily prayers.</p> <p>Do you find it easy to give thanks? Why?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 4</i></p> <p>Read Luke 17: 11-19</p> <p>I often questioned what happened to the nine, those who never returned to give thanks.</p> <p>What do you think happened to them? Was their healing taken from them? Did they just go on living as if they were never lepers? Scripture does not tell us what happened to the other nine, but it is clear what happened to the one.</p> <p>How did Jesus respond to the one who returned?</p> <p>The word "well" in verse 19 means "to save." The man was made whole... complete, when he offered thanks.</p> <p>Do you think it is possible our faith is made complete with our gratitude?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 2</i></p> <p>Read Luke 22:19</p> <p>Ann Voskamp writes in her book <i>One Thousand Gifts</i> the original language for "he gave thanks" is eucharisteo. When she looks at what's rooted in the Greek she finds:</p> <p><i>Charis</i>: grace</p> <p><i>Eucharisteo</i>: thanksgiving</p> <p><i>Chara</i>: joy</p> <p>She goes on to say, "A threefold cord that might hold a life? Offer a way up into the fullest life? Grace, thanksgiving, joy. Eucharisteo."</p> <p>Imagine, the celebrating of the first Eucharist (Lord's Supper). Jesus offering up His body and blood all the while giving thanks.</p> <p>Do you give thanks in the midst of difficult circumstances?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 5</i></p> <p>Read John 11: 38-44</p> <p>Before the miracle happened Jesus prayed. How did He begin His prayer?</p> <p>Before Jesus spoke life into Lazarus, before the miracle even took place, Jesus gave thanks.</p> <p>Maybe we have this thanksgiving thing backwards. We often give thanks after the fact... a response to something. And we certainly should.</p> <p>But do you remember our definition of faith? Go to Hebrews 11:1 if you need a reminder. Faith not only gives thanks after the miracle, it gives thanks before the miracle ever happens.!</p> <p>Is there some miracle you've been praying for lately, give thanks today even before you see it come to pass.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 3</i></p> <p>Read Matthew 15: 32-39</p> <p>The crowd was hungry, needing to be fed.</p> <p>How did the disciples respond to the small amount of food available to them?</p> <p>Jesus took the loaves and fishes, though it was not enough to meet their needs, and gave thanks.</p> <p>How often do we respond just like the disciples? Looking at what we have been given as "not enough," instead of giving thanks and trusting God to use what we have to meet our needs.</p> <p>Are you a "glass half empty or glass half full" kind of girl? Why?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Want to learn more?</i></p> <p>Sister Talk: Going Deeper is an extension of Sister Talk: Resuscitate Your Faith. You can find more on Thanksgiving by going to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SisterTalkFaith.wordpress.com</p> <p>Scroll to the bottom and search Week2/Day 4 Thanksgiving to review more information on Devoted to Prayer: Thanksgiving.</p> <p>Sign up to receive blog posts by e-mail and each day's lesson will come straight to your inbox.</p> <p>Follow us on Instagram for encouragement along the journey at sistertalkfaith.</p>