

When Jesus Gave Thanks

November 2018

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O give
thanks
unto the LORD, for he is good;
for his mercy endures forever.
Pslam 107:1 (KJV)

We know when we are apt to give thanks to God. Many say “grace” before eating their meals. Many thank God when they escape disaster, or when they receive an astounding gift. Psalm 100:4, 5 says:

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations.

Recently, when considering the act of remembrance established by Jesus and referenced as the Lord’s Supper, I noticed this: **And when He had given thanks, He broke [the bread], and said....1 Cor. 11:24.** Communion as an ordinance of remembrance intends to remind us of the body and blood of Jesus Christ as He offered Himself a sacrifice for our sin in order that our sin might be forgiven and that the fullness of the atonement might be accomplished. We remember that Christ bore our liability for sin, paying the debt note of sin. He cleared us of guilt and liability. He bore the wrath of God, propitiating that wrath. He reconciled us to God in order that we might be forgiven and not alienated from God. He redeemed us to set us free from the bondage of sin. He destroyed the works of the devil.

As I thought about 1 Cor. 11: 24, I began thinking about when Jesus gave thanks. Thanking is thinking; it begins with a thought that leads to thoughtfulness resulting in thankfulness. It is thinking about God’s good grace as it works for our eternal gain and for His glory.

2168 *eucharistéō* (from [2095](https://biblehub.com/greek/2095.htm) /*eú*, "good" and 5485/*xaris*, "grace") – properly, acknowledging that "God's grace works well," i.e. for our *eternal* gain and His glory; *to give thanks* – literally, "thankful for God's good grace." <https://biblehub.com/greek/2168.htm>

So let’s consider some times when Jesus gave thanks.

- 1. Jesus expressed His thanks to the Father, and God provided abundantly – John 6:11 the 5,000; Matthew 15:36, the 4,000.**

This is the same time as Luke 9:10-17; Matthew 14:13-21; and Mark 6:30-44. John 6:11 concerned the feeding of the five thousand, five loaves and two fish. It had been quite a day, and the day was waning. There was a big crowd and people were hungry. How were all these people to be fed? Jesus told His disciples, **“You give them to eat.”** The disciples responded that

there absolutely was not enough to feed all those folks—only five loaves and two fish, and those were most likely gone. That didn't change Jesus' mind at all. He told the disciples to sit the people down in groups. Thus started the obedience to the positive.

And Jesus took the loaves; and when He had given thanks He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. John 6:11.

Jesus **blessed** what was presented to Him, looking up. He blessed the five small barley loaves and two small fish and five thousand people were fed. Jesus offered up what was available, blessed it, and God multiplied. The miracle convinced many that this indeed was that prophet who should come into the world, but Jesus perceived that they would come and take Him by force to make Him a king, and so He departed again into a mountain Himself alone.

We are to praise Him since God can do so much more with what we have! God's provision is seen. He is true to His promises.

In Matthew 15:36 we have the account of the feeding of the four thousand. Jesus had compassion on the people who had continue with Him three days and who had nothing to eat now. He would not send them away fasting lest they might faint in the way. But this was in the wilderness. How would they pull this off? Jesus asked what was available and the disciples said, Seven loaves and a few little fishes. Again Jesus commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. He took the seven loaves and the fishes and gave thanks, and broke the loaves and gave to His disciples, and the disciples gave to the multitude. Seven full baskets were left over. Four thousand men beside the women and children were fed.

And He took the seven loaves and he fishes and gave thanks, and broke them, and gave to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. Matthew 15:36. See also Mark 8:1-10.

2. Jesus expressed His thanks to His Father for hearing Him when He prayed. John 11:41, 42

Lazarus is dead, in the grave, in a cave stoned up. Jesus ordered the stone to be taken away. Martha complained about the stench. Jesus reminds her what He had said to her that if she would believe, she should see the glory of God. The stone was taken away and at this point Jesus lifted up His eyes and said:

Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I knew that You hear Me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that You have sent Me. John 11:41, 42

Jesus giving thanks because He knew that the Father heard Him when He prayed reveals the nature of Christ. He knew the Father heard Him always. He spoke this way in order that the people might believe that the Father had sent Him. People knowing that the Father had sent Him, that He had come from the Father, was very important to Jesus.

Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, **Lazarus, come forth**. And Lazarus came forth.

We don't know what specifically Jesus prayed, but we know He was heard. We know that Jesus had wept, that He groaned in the spirit and was troubled before He went to the grave site.

What's important for us is that God cares. God listens. We are to thank God for hearing us. God can do something about our concerns and may act on our behalf. We want the listening ear of someone we can trust, who knows us, and who has our best interests at heart.

In Jeremiah 33:1-3 the Lord tells us to call unto Him and He will answer us and show us great and mighty things which we know not! Isaiah 59:1 tells us that God's ear is not so dull that He cannot hear His children. Because of the atoning work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, we can come boldly to the throne of Grace to obtain mercy and to find grace and favor in a timely way (Hebrews 4:16). Jesus is our High Priest, ever living to make intercession for us.

Look! It's incredible that the Creator of the Universe and the Most Holy God hears the prayers of those believing in Jesus Christ. We are loved because we are accepted in the Beloved. Our access to the Father comes because Jesus has opened the way and clothed us with His righteousness. Remember, the Holy Spirit applies to us what Jesus Christ has accomplished for us.

3. Jesus rejoiced in spirit and thanked His Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that the Father had hidden certain things from some and revealed them to babes. Luke 10:21, 22; Matthew 11:25

...I thank You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hid these things from the wise and prudent, and have revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Your sight. Matthew 11:25, 26.

4. Jesus gave thanks for the elements of remembrance of His body and blood sacrifice. – 1 Corinthians 11:24; Luke 22:14-23

As Jesus met with His disciples for the Last Supper, He gave thanks for the bread and the cup. He did this the same night in which He was betrayed. Remember, these elements represented His body and His blood. Jesus would offer Himself a sacrifice for sin.

The words Jesus spoke were given from the Father, Jesus' Father, as Source. This was important to Jesus, that we understand that these words from the Father are Life and Blessing. Important also to Jesus was that we understand that He was sent by the Father. He was sent to glorify His Father, who also glorifies Jesus. Jesus was sent by the Father to save a people unto Himself.

And when He had given thanks, He broke [the bread] and said, Take, eat: this is My body which is [given] for you. This do in remembrance of Me. 1 Corinthians 11:24

In the same manner also He took the cup...Jesus acknowledged God's grace, God's good grace, in the whole plan of salvation, of a way back to the Father. The love of God prompted His sending of Jesus to be the necessary and sufficient sacrifice for sin. Jesus obeyed with no rebellion in His holy heart. He obeyed out of love and supreme loyalty and attachment to His Father. He glorified His Father, and His Father glorified Him. There was a rejoicing, a great joy.

John 3:16 reminds us that it was the love of God that prompted Him to give His only Son for our redemption. We must give thanks that God loved the cosmos so much that He sent His only unique Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

We must thank our God, the Living God, for being who He is and for doing what He has done. We need to move beyond that to thank Him for what He continues to do and for what He will do. He is faithful to His Word, to His promise.

Let's think about it. The Father abundantly provides. He hears our prayers as we are in Christ, who is the provision as God provided Himself a sacrifice for our sin.

In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. (Genesis 22:14)

The Father reveals the Son, and the Son reveals the Father. We can rejoice in that and for whatever God in His grace has revealed to us. We can give thanks as we remember the Lord's death until He comes. We can reach that point in Christ where we are satisfied with all that God has for us in Christ Jesus, God the Son, Son of God, King of kings and Lord of lords. Give thanks for the LORD is good. His greatest gift is Himself.

We at MCM thank you for your support over these last 25+ years. We pray for you, remembering you with joy and rejoicing in all the LORD has done.

May you be blessed as you give thanks to the LORD for all He is, for all He has done and will do, and as you grow in your knowledge of Jesus Christ, when He gave thanks.

Rejoicing in the riches of His glory,

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

He that spared not His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things. Romans 8:32

All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19



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