

"THE TRUTH  
ABOUT  
THANKSGIVING"



*Psalm 136*

**Kids are taught today that Thanksgiving is the celebration where the Pilgrims thanked the Indians for teaching them how to farm, etc.**

**That's not what Thanksgiving is all about.**

**The truth of Thanksgiving is we set aside this special day to remember and be thankful for what God has done for us.**

**Thanksgiving Day didn't start with the Pilgrims.**



1 *Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!*  
*For His mercy endures forever.*

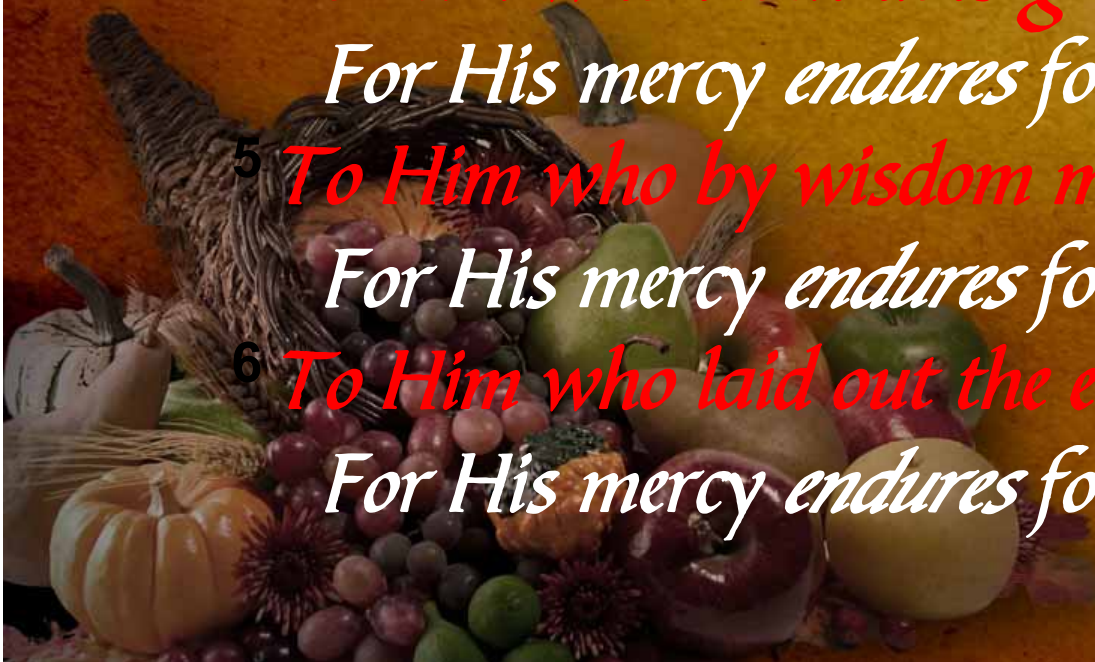
2 *Oh, give thanks to the God of gods!*  
*For His mercy endures forever.*

3 *Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords!*  
*For His mercy endures forever:*

4 *To Him who alone does great wonders,*  
*For His mercy endures forever;*

5 *To Him who by wisdom made the heavens,*  
*For His mercy endures forever;*

6 *To Him who laid out the earth above the waters,*  
*For His mercy endures forever;*



*7 To Him who made great lights,  
For His mercy endures forever—*

*8 The sun to rule by day,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

*9 The moon and stars to rule by night,  
For His mercy endures forever.*

*10 To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

*11 And brought out Israel from among them,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

*12 With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

*13 To Him who divided the Red Sea in two,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

14 *And made Israel pass through the midst of it,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

15 *But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

16 *To Him who led His people through the wilderness,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

17 *To Him who struck down great kings,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

18 *And slew famous kings,  
For His mercy endures forever—*

19 *Sihon king of the Amorites,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

20 *And Og king of Bashan,  
For His mercy endures forever—*

21 *And gave their land as a heritage,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

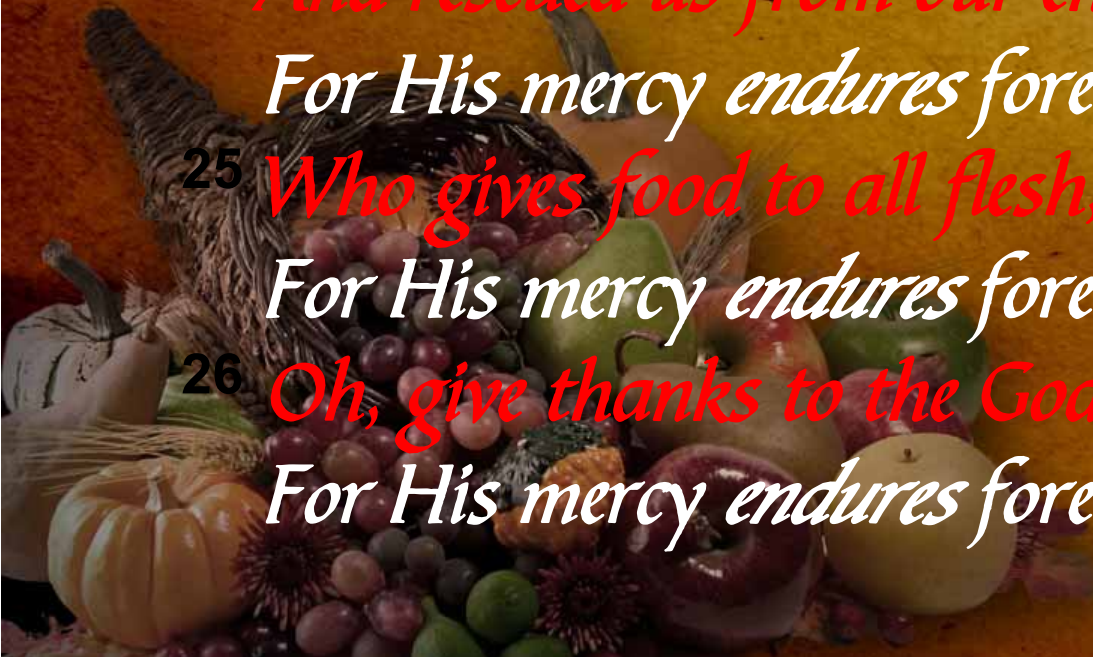
22 *A heritage to Israel His servant,  
For His mercy endures forever.*

23 *Who remembered us in our lowly state,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

24 *And rescued us from our enemies,  
For His mercy endures forever;*

25 *Who gives food to all flesh,  
For His mercy endures forever.*

26 *Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven!  
For His mercy endures forever.*



# I. THANKFULNESS – A RARE COMMODITY:

A. We all abhor ingratitude. The quickest way to upset someone is to be ungrateful for a kindness they did.

B. True thankfulness is harder and rarer than we might think.

C. There is a very clear account of ingratitude in *(Luke 17)*.

D. In times of special mercy, thankfulness is an instinctive feeling.

E. It is not the rare times that show the man; it is the common times.

## II. THANKFULNESS – NOT FORBEARANCE:

- A. Thankfulness depends upon our view of God.
- B. As is our God; so is our gratitude.
- C. If everything comes by chance, then we won't be grateful for there is no one to be grateful to.
- D. The world's view gives two options – fortitude or forbearance.
- E. In Jesus' view fortitude and forbearance is swallowed up in thankfulness.
- F. There is a loving purpose in the darkest hour as well as the happy times.
- G. In everything there is the love of God.

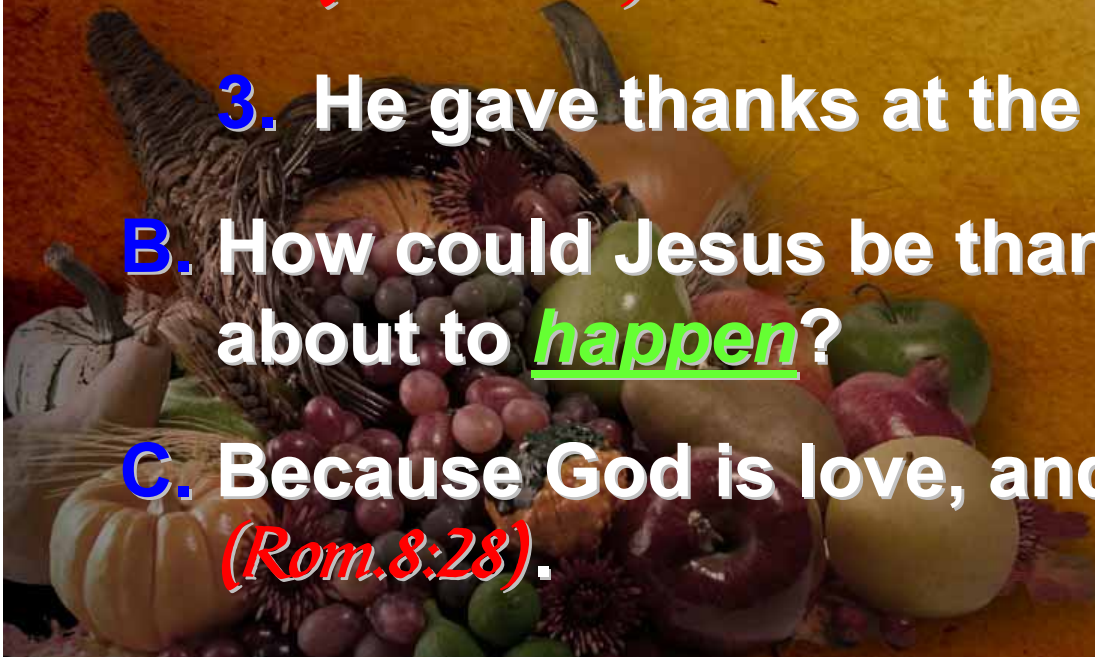
# III. THANKFULNESS – OUR EXAMPLE IS JESUS:

## A. Three examples of Jesus giving thanks to God.

1. He gives thanks publicly before feeding the multitude (*Mat. 14*).
2. He gave thanks for ordinary people (*Mat. 11:25*).
3. He gave thanks at the last supper (*Luke 22*).

## B. How could Jesus be thankful for what was about to happen?

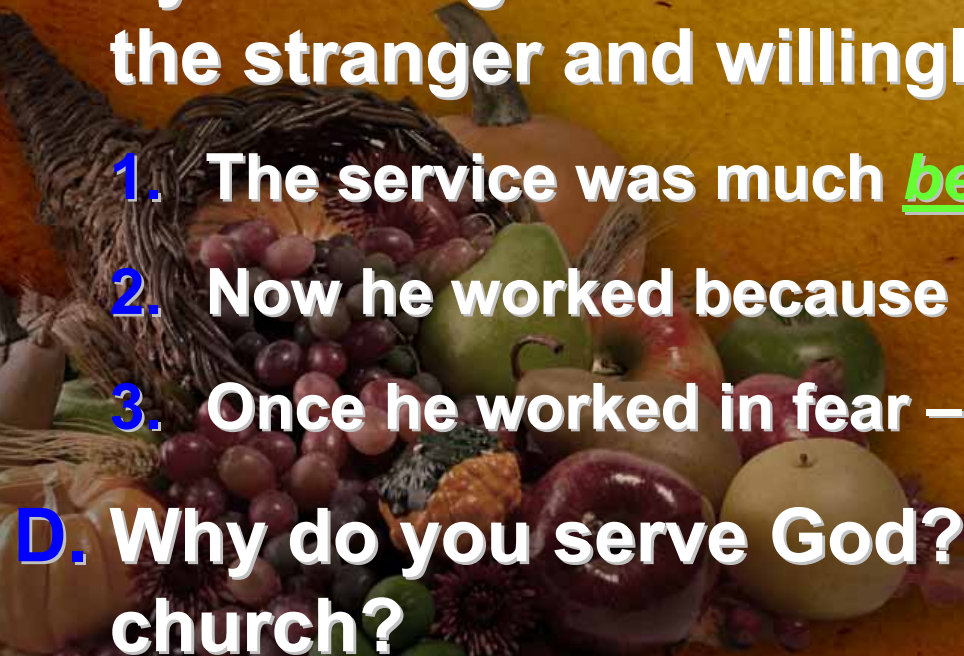
## C. Because God is love, and love arranged it all (*Rom. 8:28*).



## IV. THANKFULNESS – SECRET TO SATISFACTION:

- A. Happy folks aren't the ones thankful – It's thankful folks who are happy.
- B. Happiness doesn't depend on what we have – else those with the most would be most happy.
- C. Happiness depends upon our point of view.
- D. Those that complain and worry are never really happy.
- E. Ungrateful people are never happy people.
- F. The way to be glad is to be grateful.
- G. The way to be grateful is to trust in God.

## V. THANKFULNESS – SOURCE OF SERVICE:

- A. Not only is thankfulness the spring of joy it is the source of dedicated service.
- B. That's the reason Christian service should be the finest service in the world.
- C. You've heard of the slave who was purchased by a stranger and set free. He then worshipped the stranger and willingly served him.
1. The service was much better than before.
  2. Now he worked because he loved to work.
  3. Once he worked in fear – now in gratitude.
- D. Why do you serve God? Why do you come to church?
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# Happy Thanksgiving

