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Try Thanksgiving #105.mp3

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START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:05] Jimmy Knott

Greetings, my friend. Welcome again to the podcast. Teaching that transforms with Pastor Jimmy Knott. Thanks so much for joining me today. Today, we're gonna continue our study and prayer specifically from my latest book, Lord Teach us to Pray. It's been out a couple of months and available on Amazon. Lord, Teach us to Pray by Jimmy Knott. I hope you go there get it. It's also available in a digital form, if you prefer that as well. But we're studying through the book, which is obviously a book called on Prayer. And right now we've been studying through a strategy of plan on how to have a more meaningful and more consistent personal prayer time.

[00:00:48] Jimmy Knott

And we're using a little acronym, A.C.T.S (acts). And we began with adoration, a adoration or praise, Psalm said from the rising of the sun to the setting of the same the Lord's name is to be praised. We are enter into his courts' with Thanksgiving, enter into his gates. Gatto's place of opening with praise. The Lord inhabits and dwells in a just a unique way the adoration and the praises of his people. So we began in adoration and praise. Once we enter into his holy presence through adoration and praise, we should become just sensitive to and really acutely aware of our need of our sins and our need for a confession of our sins to enjoy his full and his complete forgiveness.

[00:01:44] Jimmy Knott

You remember last time we talked about confession and our sins, sins un-confessed damage our fellowship and hinder a prayerful relationship with God. And when we sin even as believers and we do, we really have two options. We looked at those out of first, John first, which all too often is what we do. Much like what Adam and Eve did when they sinned in the garden. They hid. They covered and they lied about it. And the scripture is real clear that he who covers his sins will not prosper. It will not go well. It will not be good. But those who confess and forsake their sins will find he will obtain mercy. And all sin is important. When we confess our sins to God, we're essentially agreeing with God that we sinned and that we take ownership and that it's our sin. We did it. We made that choice of attitude or action or made the choice of inaction, whatever the case may be. And All sins all sins small sins attitudinal Sins. You know, large sins, as it were. All sins should be confessed, and that should be done immediately when the Holy Spirit does that great work in our heart and lives by giving a check in our spirit and convicting us of of of a central attitude or action or inaction. And they should be confessed specifically because that's really how we did them, not generally, but specifically taken very seriously what we have done to offend God and perhaps others. And I think the confession is all about being thankful as well, thankful and confident that God loves us and loves to forgive us. And he certainly does. He we have a very gracious and a wonderful forgiving and a kind and forgiving God. So that after adoration and then we move into confession and now we move to today element of prayer. And that is Thanksgiving. Adoration, confession and then Thanksgiving.

[00:03:38] Jimmy Knott

You might ask why Thanksgiving after confession? Well, here's my answer. Thanksgiving is the gratitude that we show for what is God has to be God's greatest and most needed gift in our life, which is forgiveness.

[00:03:56] Jimmy Knott

Our greatest problem, is sin. That's just the bottom line. And therefore, our greatest need is the forgiveness of our sins. Now, let me clear up what might be a little bit of confusion, how are prayers of adoration and praise different from prayers of Thanksgiving, which is today's topic? Well, here's a simple distinguishing element in adoration we praise God for who he is. His name and his and his attributes. Who he is. Whereas in Thanksgiving, we express gratitude and appreciation for what he does. Oh, Housley writes, When we give thanks, we give God the glory for what he has done for us. And when we worship or give praise, we give glory for who he is in himself.

[00:04:48] Jimmy Knott

And, you know, when we study scripture, which I love to do and I know many of you listening to as well, we see often that there is an inseparable link or relationship between Thanksgiving and prayer. A couple to bring to mind from the writings of Paul and Philippians, Chapter 4, verse 6 have no anxiety about anything. Don't be stressed out. Don't worry about anything. But in every-

thing, in everything, by prayer and supplication, with Thanksgiving. Prayer, with Thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And then over in Paul's letter to the church, Colassey in Chapter 4 verse 2 continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with Thanksgiving. So Thomas is right. It's a good thing to give thanks to the Lord.

[00:05:38] Jimmy Knott

Let me begin before we get into the actual parts of this Chapter 5 in my book on Try Thanksgiving. I want to read what I think is a very powerful quote from a great Bible teacher, John MacArthur. He writes again about this subject of rendering Thanksgiving to God.

[00:05:54] Jimmy Knott

He writes, I'm convinced that the greatest singular act of personal worship that you can render to God is to have a thankful heart. Thanks ultimately, crucifies self. Thanks Ultimately recognizes God as a source of everything. Thanks, is always able to say in the midst of difficult circumstances, God be praised and see beyond the pain to the plan of God and thanks is the ultimate act of praise because it says God, I thank you even for the hard times for those that die, for a difficult marriage, for an unfulfilling job, for everything. Because I know that it can be used for my good and conforming me to Jesus Christ.

[00:06:39] Jimmy Knott

What a powerful quote. Powerful words about the importance of Thanksgiving in our lives. So we're going to look at Thanksgiving. And there are five parts in this chapter. Chapter five.

[00:06:52] Jimmy Knott

And I'm going to go through each one of those and I hope they'll be a blessing and be instructional to you as well. First of all, Thanksgiving to whom? To whom do we offer up our Thanksgiving? Well, the obvious answer to that is God. God is the deserving object for our thanks. Why? Well, for all that he's done, the past blessings that he has wrought in our lives, for all that he is doing. Currently, right now, all of us can look at our lives and see things in our in our life experience that we can be grateful for. And then in faith, thanking God for what he will do in the future. So God is to be right for all he's done, what he is doing and for what he will do. The giver God is always greater than the than the gift.

[00:07:42] Jimmy Knott

Let me read a few of the Psalms, which is so very, very rich in Thanksgiving. Let me read a few of the of the Psalms, and I think you'll find those to be a helpful Psalm 105. Verse 1. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, call own his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Psalm 106.1. Praise the Lord. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. And then Psalm 107. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good for his steadfast love endures forever. And then one more Psalm 111.1. Praise the Lord. I'll give thanks to the lord with my whole heart in the company, upright in the congregation. It's just a good thing to give thanks to the Lord.

[00:08:26] Jimmy Knott

And here's a good reason. It reminds us of how awesome and wonderful our God is.

[00:08:34]

So first Thanksgiving to whom? God. Second, Thanksgiving by whom? Well, who should be grateful? Well, I think that's kind of obvious to its every believers' responsibility to give thanks to God. No one is exempt. Every believer should give wholehearted thanks to God. It's just part of what we should be doing. In our experience, Let me read a couple of psalms again. Psalm 50, verse 14 offered to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving, especially when life is going difficult. Sometimes being thankful can be difficult. And I think part of the reason he uses this word sacrifice. Because when you think about when you think about sacrifice, we think about surrender and we think about brokenness and we think about giving up our way and our rights. And that's not easy. So the rest of the verse says offered God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving. Pay your vows, submit your life, as it were, to the most high God. And then over in Psalm 95, verse 2, let us come into his presence with Thanksgiving. And then one of my favorite verses over and Colossians Chapter 3 and in verse 15 is a really powerful verse about being thankful and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which you were called into one body.

[00:09:58] Jimmy Knott

And then he said, and be thankful and be thankful and be thankful.

[00:10:03] Jimmy Knott

You know, in gratitude is really a litmus tests of where we are in our journey. And it really is an offensive and a heinous sin. Well, one of the most powerful stories in the Ministry of Jesus in the Gospels only recorded in Luke; is the story of Jesus cleansing the ten lepers. Let me read that and draw a few quick lessons from it. On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by 10 lepers who stood at a distance.

[00:10:34] Jimmy Knott

That's what lepers do. They stay at a distance because of their contagion. Ten lepers who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices saying, Jesus, master, have mercy on us. When he saw them, he said to them, go and show yourselves to the priest. And as they went, they were cleansed. Then one of them not ten one of them. When he saw he had been healed turned back praising God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now, he was a Samaritan. He was not Jewish. Then Jesus answered. We're not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found returning a praise to God except this foreigner? This Samiratan not even a Jewish person? And Jesus said to him, Rise and go your way. Your faith has made you well. You've not only made you well made, you know, you're not only been made whole physically and that your leprosy has been cleansed, but I have made you host spiritually because of your faith and your gratitude. Just a few quick lessons. This is a powerful story about the

importance of Thanksgiving in our journey? Here's the first one, Remember 10. There were 10 lepers, all 10 healed only one return. Lesson number one. Odds are you're not going to be grateful. Odds are. I mean, this one is just one out of 10. So, you know, we gotta be very careful that we're very deliberate and intentional about our gratitude to God.

[00:11:57] Jimmy Knott

Number two, people who have the most to be thankful for are rarely the most thankful. And a boy that's certainly true in the lives of those other nine. They had a lot to be thankful for and they just kind of went on. Number three, God doesn't bless us because we're thankful. We're thankful because he blesses us. Big, big difference and were that the attention goes.

[00:12:23] Jimmy Knott

And then the last lesson being thankful keeps the holy from becoming just too common in our journey, and in our experience. Just becoming, you know, expected in our lives. We live in a world, sadly, that's become increasingly one of entitlement, that I have my rights and I deserve not only what I have, but more in my life Thanksgiving, especially in prayer is a way to remind ourselves that everything we have is not because we've already or deserve it, but based on the grace and the mercy and the goodness and the kindness of God.

[00:13:01] Jimmy Knott

So Thanksgiving to whom? God. Thanksgiving by whom? Everyone, especially his children. Number three,.

[00:13:08] Jimmy Knott

Thanksgiving. What for? Why should we be giving thanks to the Lord? What what are the reasons? What are the purposes that are to be found in Thanksgiving? Why is that so important? And I cover a lot of these on page 36 and following in the book. But let me highlight these. I think there five of them. Let me highlight these. In terms of some of the reasons why we need to be thankful. First, is our Thanksgiving to God magnifies or glorifies him. Psalm 69 30. I will magnify him, honor him, glorify him with my Thanksgiving. You know, I really find it interesting when you look at prayer in general, when we pray God is magnified, honored, and glorified. Then you look at each of these elements thus far and adoration, whoever offers adoration and praise glorifies God. And then in confession, when we confess, are saying God is glorified. And then now we come to this next element and a personal prayer plan, Thanksgiving. When we offer Thanksgiving, God is magnified in our journey. And then next, prayer obeys the father. He expects and really is obviously deserving of our prayers. In Psalm 50, verse 14, I read this earlier. Offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving and pay your vows to the most high. It is about surrendering our rights and submitting our life to him over and over he tells us to pray in scripture.

[00:14:32] Jimmy Knott

A third good reason to pray. Powerful reason. Again, it reminds us that God is good and that he is the giver of everything that we have. It just works against this spirit of of entitlement that so many people in our world have and can easily creep into our lives. Next, it follows the example of up the people in Scripture. If you go back Old Testament, New Testament, you look some of the saints of scripture. And just to mention a few, like David. You know, David was just a normal person like all of us that really struggled and had a lot of baggage in his own personal journey. But when you look at the life of David, especially when you read the psalms of which he was author of most, it's just lightened with Thanksgiving after Thanksgiving to God for all that he has done in David's life. Then you look at the great apostle Paul and just think for a minute with me. Look at the New Testament as a whole. And there 27 books in the New Testament. Paul wrote 13 letters. So almost half of the New Testament. When you look at Paul's 13 letters in the opening few verses of 9 of those 13, he'd made mention of Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving to God and Thanksgiving often for others. So what a powerful example. Paul was such a thankful person for all that God had done in his life.

[00:15:57] Jimmy Knott

And then certainly the example of Jesus over and over again. For instance, in the feeding of the 5000 out of the minimal, food that was available. Jesus, before he fed the five thousand offered Thanksgiving up to God. I think in John Chapter Eleven, when Lazarus, his friend, had had died in Marion Martha, his sisters were so brokenhearted, and Jesus came and resurrected raised Lazarus from the dead. Prior to doing that, he thanked God for what God was about to do.

[00:16:35] Jimmy Knott

And then the Lord's Supper, something that we practice in remembrance of him. He told us to be thankful. Thankful he offered up thanks as he instituted the Lord's Supper, that that we recognize even today in our journeys. And then one other, and that is, I think as Christians, the Holy Spirit lives in us. He wants to control and dominate and influence and permeate our lives. And one of the evidences that he is in control of our journey is our willingness to offer a Thanksgiving.

[00:17:11] Jimmy Knott

Let me take you over to Paul's letter to the church at Ethicist and let me read a few verses here, beginning in Chapter 5 and in verse 15. Dane. Look carefully then how you walk, how you live. Not as unwise men. Unwise being a sense of not having a personal relationship with Christ, but is wise making the most of the time squeezing the opportunity because today's are evil. We live in an evil world. Therefore, don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. What is it? Don't get drunk with wine. That's a that's a false filling. A false control. That's debauchery. But be filled continually, being filled with the power and the person of his spirit. Evidences, listen to this: Addressing one another in songs, hems, and spiritual songs. Singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart. That's just joy, regardless of circumstances. But here's what we're after in this lesson: and always for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the father.

[00:18:15] Jimmy Knott

One of the great evidences are the filling and control of the spirit of God in your life and in my life is that we're thankful no matter what's going on in our journey.

[00:18:27] Jimmy Knott

Element number four in in this chapter is an easy one. It's an easy one because it's just so large when you think about it. Thanksgiving for what? We have so much, so much to be thankful for. I began to list in in the book, I think it's on pages 37 and 38, just a list that's just so small compared to everything that we could be thankful for in our journey, you know, for food and for God's goodness and mercy. What about Thankful for the Gift of Christ? What about the power and effect of God's word? What about the promised victory over a death in the grave? The wisdom and power he gives us when we needed the faith and grace bestowed on us by God. And nearness, as it were, to God's presence and on and on and on it goes to all of the things that you and I should be thankful for in our journey. It shouldn't be hard to come up with a with a powerful list of all the things that we can and we should be thankful for in our journey.

[00:19:32] Jimmy Knott

There's one more element as I move toward the close today, and that has to do. Thanksgiving How-to. How should we do that? Is there maybe a simple plan that I could follow in this element of the A.C.T.S acronym Thanksgiving? is there a plan? And there is. So let me kind of walk you through I think what would be a good idea. The first thing under how to is, we need to thank God for all things. That's what Ephesians 5/20 said, thanking God for all things that's going on in our journey, for everything. Nothing being left out in our journey. And then over in First Thessalonians chapter. Chapter 5. Verse 18. Giving thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

[00:20:16] Jimmy Knott

We can always give thanks for our circumstances. Well, sometimes they're not good, but we can give thanks in them knowing that our God, is our God, and that he is in control and he's going to work things out for our good and for his glory. I love Psalm 103. The whole Psalm is really a great psalm of Thanksgiving. You ought to read through it. But it begins bless the Lord. Oh my soul, all that was in me, and forget not all of his benefits. Oh we ought to sit down every now and then and it just remember just make a list, make a literal list of all of the things that we should be thankful for in our journey for all that God has done for us, in us, and through us. It's a powerful, powerful tool.

[00:21:00] Jimmy Knott

A second thing on a Thanksgiving, how to for specific blessings. Specific blessings. Let me kind of break that down for health, for our physical blessings. We have so much to be grateful for. For material blessings. You know, a roof over our head, maybe a little bit of money in a bank and in our pocket. For the food that we get to eat, so many material benefits, we enjoy this life.

[00:21:23] Jimmy Knott

How about for people Blessings? Spouse, kids, grand kids, moms, dads, grandparents, co-workers, friends, church, family. I mean, so many, many, many people blessings, so important.

[00:21:40]

What about the spiritual blessings that we can enjoy because of our relationship with with Christ? And I gave you a really great list of some of the spiritual blessings that are available to us because of our personal relationship with Christ. He has done so much for us in our journey and we should be very, very thankful for all that he's done and many of those are just simply the spiritual blessings in our lives.

[00:22:08] Jimmy Knott

And we should be probably most thankful for those as well.

[00:22:13] Jimmy Knott

So Thanksgiving adoration, then Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving is the will of God for every believer. And we should be so grateful to him for all that he's done, and we should tell him as well.

[00:22:27]

Let me close by reading a couple of verses out of Psalm 116 and begins with this question. What shall I render? What shall I give to the Lord for all of his bounty, for all of his goodness to me? I mean, what should I get? Should I think I deserve that or I've earned it?

[00:22:42] Jimmy Knott

Well, absolutely not. He answers that a few verses later, I will offer it to the the sacrifice of Thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

[00:22:54] Jimmy Knott

So let's be thankful. This week, practice Thanksgiving. You know, at least three or four times this week. Thank God for at least one physical health blessing. Thank God for at least one material blessing in your life. Think of someone in your life, and there's so many we could think of. Thank God for one person blessing. And then thank God for a spiritual blessing that's going on within your journey.

[00:23:19] Jimmy Knott

What a powerful study on prayer. I thank God that he moved in my heart to write the book. I hope you'll go to Amazon if you don't have it already and purchase the book.

[00:23:27] Jimmy Knott

And when you finished the book, I want to encourage you to go back to Amazon and write a review. I would really, really appreciate it very much. Thank you for listening to truth that transforms. Remember, it only transforms us when we apply it. Blessings from Pastor Jimmy. I'll see you next time.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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