THANKSGIVING

Intro: The holiday of Thanksgiving is to give thanks to a gracious heavenly Father for the blessings which he has given us.

Intro: Of all people the Israelites should have been a most thankful people, but they were not:

1. After God brought them out of Israel; Exo. 16:2 “And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:”
   
2. They wanted water, but God had already proved he would provide for them; Ex. 17:2 “Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?”
   
3. The key word in the book of Numbers is murmuring.
   a. 11:1 “And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.”
   b. Didn’t like the manna; 11:4-6 “And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? 5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: 6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.”
   c. The report of the 10 spies; 14:2 “And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!”
   d. At the rebellion of Korah Dathan, and Abiram; because many were killed by God; 16:41 “But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.”
   e. No water; 20:2-5 “And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. 3 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, saying, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, nor is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.”
   f. The way was hard; 21:5 “And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.”

4. As a result they were destroyed; 1 Cor. 10:10 “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”

5. We have been greatly blessed in this nation. This time of the year, thanksgiving, has been set aside to give thanks to a gracious heavenly Father for these many blessings.

I. PHYSICAL BLESSINGS
   A. Song—“When Upon Life’s Billows”
   B. Mat. 5:45 “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”; Psa. 147:7-9 “Sing unto the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God: 8 Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. 9 He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry.”
   C. Our nation today is the most blessed nation in the world.

1. Necessities of life (Mat. 6:25-31-33)
   a. food
   b. clothes
c. houses

2. Luxuries of life
   a. “A Thankful Heart”
      America has only 6% of the world’s population. Yet we are blessed with:
      - 33% of the world’s production
      - 33% of the world’s college students
      - 49% of the world’s telephones
      - 50% of the world’s air travel
      - 60% of the world’s automobiles,
      television, running water, electric washers and dryers are common even among our poorer people, while the average of underprivileged countries struggle for their basic food and shelter, What more can we ask? Lord, thou hast given us all things. Give us yet one more: A Thankful Heart.
   b. cars
   c. T.V.
   d. Computers, etc.

II. IN ORDER TO BE THANKFUL WE MUST BE HUMBLE.
   A. We must realize that we do nothing to receive them.
   B. God is the giver of all things.
      1. Psa. 106:1 “Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever”
      2. Jam. 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
   C. So we must give thanks to God; Psa. 116:12 “What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?”
      1. Psa. 50:14 “Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:”
      2. 2 Cor. 9:11 “Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”
      3. Eph. 5:20 “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”
      4. Col. 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
      5. 1 The. 5:18 “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

III. SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
   A. When we are baptized we get into Christ.
      1. Rom. 6:1-7 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.”
      2. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
B. **No condemnation; Rom. 8:1** “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

C. **Redemption; Forgiveness of sins;**
   1. Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
   2. Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”

D. **New Creature; 2 Cor. 5:17** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

E. **Child Of God; Gal. 3:26** “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

F. **Salvation; 2 Tim. 2:10** “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

G. **Blessed when die; Rev. 14:13** “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

H. **Access To The Father; Eph. 2:18** “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

I. **All Spiritual Blessings; Eph. 1:3** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”

J. **God provided a way of salvation through the death of Christ.**
   1. Psa. 106:1 “Praise ye the L ORD. O give thanks unto the L ORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”
   2. Psa. 136:1-3 “O give thanks unto the L ORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.”

**Conclusion:** 1 Cor. 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Prayer for blessings.