

11/21/21

ATT 37

FB 7

Sermon – Thanksgiving 2021 – Holy Thanksgiving

Scripture – 2 Chronicles 29:20 - 36

Main Message: This Thanksgiving let it be for the Lord God first and foremost, then rejoicing will come naturally.

Our Thanksgiving holiday is special. In its origins it is meant to give thanks. All of us who attended school back in the day learned about the pilgrims, their feasting with native American Indians, and we cut out turkey and pilgrim hats out of craft paper. It was fun. It made the holiday even more alive. Even as a child, and I'm not alone in this, I looked forward to the bountiful feast that was coming. Turkey, at least cooked at home was once a year for me growing up and this was the time. As I remember it was the one time without fail that my dad would say grace before the meal.

In most cultures there has been some recognition of harvest time. It is a time of bounty. It was the same for the laws of God. He told the Israelites to celebrate the harvest. It was a prophetic vision to the future. Pagan religions celebrated as well, but for us the difference is that we KNOW where the source of this blessing comes from. Others are only happy to have a full stomach. We are thankful of our loving Father in Heaven that has supplied to us all things. It is the same with Christmas. We can celebrate in a pagan fashion, or we can see the incredible gift God sent into the world. The difference is in celebrating any holiday with the right type of meaning which for us means, giving thanks to God.

Today we will read about King Hezekiah and see what happens when you serve the Lord. His father Ahaz did not do good things in the sight of God. He worshipped other Gods, burned his own children in the fire to Baal and committed one atrocity after the next. However, his son Hezekiah, at 25 years old became King and from good influences of those who lived in his life, he became a wise king and was one of the last for the tribe of Judah, with only Josiah being the last good King of Judah before the Babylonians came and conquered them.

Let's read from 2nd Chr 20 about what things became like with a leader who was dedicated to serving the Lord and how it makes all the difference.

Key Points

Notice how they rededicated temple worship again. Today, we are living testimony to the Temple of God.

They Sacrificed animals. Jesus is our sacrifice for the remission of sins today, so let it be our Sacrifice of Praise to God.

They played music to inspire God's people to worship the One True God Almighty.

The people were consecrated to the Lord. You also have been set apart to worship him.

The congregation gave to God in abundance with willing hearts and that is THANKFULNESS

The Lord God is one of great abundance. It took extra folks to pitch in and help to worship with all that was sacrificed.

After all this and the return to God was established yet again look what happened in verse 36.

REJOICING

It happened quickly, naturally, without effort or frustration and when we honor God, then we can truly rejoice from the heart. This Thanksgiving, follow this template and be amazed at how wonderful it is to serve a righteous and Holy God.

I'm sure it is possible, but I've never seen Thanksgiving dinner finish when everything was gone. I'll admit sometimes that is by design, because leftovers are coveted, but there is always an abundance and how many of us will over indulge? Its when a couple days later when there is still some residual Thanksgiving dinner hanging around that you realize how awesome God is. Reflect on his providence each and every day.