

## **WHERE'S MY PIE? (A THANKSGIVING SERMON)**

### **Ephesians 5:20**

**Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:18**

**In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

### **Introduction**

Let me begin this sermon by reciting a story that has been around for years. We don't know who told it first. It is now a part of the public domain. There are many versions of it. This is the Antioch-Lithonia version.

A newly-wedded couple moved into an established neighborhood. The new bride was excited about the wedding and about their new home. In her excitement, one afternoon, she went to meet her new neighbors. The only one who was home at the time was an elderly lady who lived next door. Let's call the new bride Brenda and let's call her neighbor Mrs. Zwickie. (I checked the church directory; we have no one with this last name, so no member should be offended.) After they had a pleasant conversation, Brenda who had just finished her baking chores, returned to her neighbor's home and brought her an apple pie. When Mrs. Zwickie opened her door, she was surprised to see Brenda holding a pie. She replied, "For me? Oh, thank you so much! You just don't know how much I appreciate it! You are so thoughtful for doing this. Thank you!"

Since Mrs. Zwickie liked the pie so much, Brenda decided next week to bake her another one. When she took it over, Mrs. Zwickie opened the door and said, "Thank you so much. You are so kind!"

Brenda took another pie over the following week. Mrs. Zwickie simply replied, "Thanks."

Brenda took another pie over the next week and Mrs. Zwickie responded, "You're a day late with that pie."

The following week Brenda baked Mrs. Zwickie another pie because she is naturally kind and is a member of the Antioch-Lithonia Missionary Baptist Church, and she takes 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4 seriously, which says love is long-suffering and love is kind. She also possesses the fruit of the Spirit. When Mrs. Zwickie received the pie this time she said, "Try using a little more sugar and don't bake it quite as long. The crust has been a little bit hard lately. Next time I'd like a cherry pie instead of an apple pie. A little variety would be nice."

The next week Brenda did not bake a pie for her neighbor. Her oven was not heating properly and she had not taken the time to get it repaired because she was busy practicing for a gospel concert at Antioch-Lithonia. When Brenda came home one night after one of those long choir rehearsals, Mrs. Zwickie stuck her head out of the window and screamed angrily, "Where's my pie? I'm ready for my dessert! What happened to my pie?"

Brenda was hurt and bewildered. She could not understand Mrs. Zwickie's ingratitude and the anger toward her after she had lovingly given her five free, delicious pies. Most of the time she

had delivered the pies like clockwork on Friday afternoon. Mrs. Zwickie's question, "Where's my pie?" resonated in Brenda's mind for a while. Shortly thereafter, another question resonated in Brenda's mind: "Mrs. Zwickie, where is your gratitude?"

The moral of the story is simple yet profound: It is easy to get used to our blessings and take them totally for granted. After enjoying them for a while, we begin to think we deserve them without question because that's the way it's supposed to be and we become very angry when the situation changes. Then instead of being thankful, we complain. Our attitude can change from being grateful to being ungrateful. Sometimes it is a process that occurs so slowly that we don't realize it is happening. We can easily become blind to our own ingratitude. Sometimes the most blessed people are the most ungrateful.

Let's face it. This has been a tough year. Covid-19 has radically changed every aspect of our lives; there has been racial turmoil, forest fires, hurricanes and an abrasive election cycle. Most of us have experienced some kind of loss. Some have lost jobs, some have lost health, some have even lost loved ones. Our grief became more painful because we could not give our loved ones the kind of homegoing we knew they deserved. Now we have to think twice about everything. Things that used to be simple like eating out, shopping, and going to the post office have become complicated. Parents with school children vacillate between virtual or in-person schooling. Graduation ceremonies were cancelled or abridged. The list could go on indefinitely. Even though Mrs. Zwickie is a fictitious person, let us not become like her. Let us find a way to be thankful in these difficult times. Let us not become bitter during these challenging times. Let us remain thankful.

Allow me to digress just for a little while. In our fallen state, due to the original sin of Adam, we are prone to become ungrateful. The Apostle Paul states this in Romans 1:21. It is also demonstrated in a narrative in Luke 17:11-18. Paul predicts that it will get worse as we get closer to the end of time. Please read 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1-2. Now let's see the contrast between grateful and ungrateful people.

### **Exposition**

- 1. Grateful People Dwell On the Good in Every Situation  
Ungrateful People Always Dwell On the Bad in Every Situation**
- 2. Grateful People Realize They Don't Deserve All the Good They Receive  
Ungrateful People Think They Deserve a Lot More Than They Receive**
- 3. Grateful People Appreciate the Times Before the Loss  
Ungrateful People Complain During the Times After the Loss**

### **Closing Thoughts**

**Grateful people take extra steps to show gratitude. They do not have to be reminded to give thanks; they give it joyfully and enthusiastically. Let me close with a short prayer by Seth Sykes:**

**Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul,  
Thank You, Lord for making me whole;**

**Thank You, Lord, for giving to me  
Thy great salvation so rich and free.  
Amen!**

**Give God Glory! Give God All the Glory!**

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