

Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is a time that is set aside to remember to give thanks to God for all we have.

President Abraham Lincoln established an official Thanksgiving holiday on **November 26, 1863**.

From the beginning the focus was giving thanks to God.

It was an invitation to the nation to give thanks.

We see this invitation to give thanks in the Psalm 100.

In the first five verses we learn three things about thankfulness.

Psalm 100:1-5

I. AN INVITATION TO THANKSGIVING

Psalm 100:4

Here we are granted the invitation to thankfulness.

God invites us into His presence.

Jesus stands at the door and knocks, inviting us to come.

To respond to his love and grace.

How do you respond to the love and mercy of Jesus?

Do you just take it for granted and forget it,

or do you accept God's invitation to draw near and give thanks?

II. THE MOTIVATION OF THANKSGIVING

What motivated the Psalmist to enter in and give thanks and praise?

It was God's character and His conduct.

His love and faithfulness through the years.

Psalm 100:5

What is it that motivates you to give thanks today?

What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

The very first recorded Thanksgiving in North America was celebrated back in 1621.

We've heard that story, but most of us do not understand the background of that story.

The amazing story of the way God used an Indian named Squanto
as a special instrument of His providence.

III. THE CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING

Psalm 100:1-3

So how do we respond to God's love and faithfulness?

1. Shout with joy to the LORD! **Psalm 100:1 NIV**

"By the goodness of God, we are so far from want..."

2. Worship the LORD with gladness. **Psalm 100:2a NIV**

When we think of all that God has done for us the natural response is worship.

Romans 12:1 NIV The key word here is OFFER.

Worship is all about offering ourselves to God.

3. Know that the LORD is God. **Psalm 100:3a NIV**

That means that we experience God's goodness in our lives in a personal way.

It means more than just an intellectual understanding.

V. CELEBRATE BY NOT JUST RECALLING THE PAST

Don't just focus on where we have come from.

Focus on where we are going.

Is there a ministry that God has laid upon your heart?

Is there an area that God is asking you to get involved with?

Perhaps you have been blessed so that you can be a blessing to other people.