“Thank God for Hand-Me-Downs”

Matthew 6:25-34

Sermon Notes

*Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as he has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.*

*Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.*

*William Bradford*

*Ye Governor of Ye Colony*

“Where has God’s hand been at work in my life?”

* God usually seems to distribute his grace through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Thanksgiving is a time to think about the totality of our lives – to look not only at the things we normally consider during Thanksgiving, but the wardrobe of hand-me-downs we wear every day without even thinking about them – intellectual, political, social, economic, and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that our family has passed down to us through the centuries.

The biblical writers had the humility and intelligence to recognize that they lived in the middle of what had been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to them.

* “If we can tell our life’s story as if it were all our own doing, we’re fools or knaves or a blend of the two.” (Elsworth Kalas)
* “For it is by grace you have been saved, though faith – and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Where has God’s hand been at work in your life?