

Thanksgiving – Nov. 26, 2025

Can't have Thanksgiving w/o Hawaiian roles.

A Conn. town once postponed T-giving a week b/c molasses shortage.

Could be no Thanksgiving w/o pumpkin pie.

But truly - no Thanksgiving w/out thanks.

Life isn't always easy. Battles. Rough seasons.

Sometimes ... it's just about getting thru the struggle. Surviving.

1 Thes. 5:18 – “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Not easy. But it's the mark of mature Christian faith. Witness!

The **first Thanksgiving** wasn't a celebration of victory.

Pilgrims sailed on the Mayflower in 1620. Immigrants/new land.

Didn't happen on 4th Thurs in Nov, and it wasn't called “Thanksgiving.”

- A 3-day celebration in late Autumn, 1621
- Considered a **harvest celebration**... & about **surviving** 1st year.

Mayflower & the Speedwell. 2 leaks, so left 6 weeks late: Sept. 6, 1620.

Mayflower: **102** passengers. Bad weather. **66** days. Landed: Nov 11, 1620

Lived onboard the Mayflower the 1st winter.

- Only **53** passengers & half the crew survived.
- Women hard hit; only **5** of **19** survived cold N.E. winter.
- Mayflower sailed back to England in April 1621;
 - o the group moved to land, they faced even more challenges.

W/o help of Native Americans, likely none would have survived.

- They were taught how to hunt local animals, gather shellfish, and grow corn, beans and squash.
 - o Ex. 22:21 – “Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.”

After the fall harvest they had **3-day festival of thanksgiving**.

- **50+ colonists** attended the 1st Thanksgiving; 22 men, 4 married women, and approx. 25 children & teenagers.
- These were the **lucky ones**...
 - o survived 66 days at sea; a harsh winter,
 - o epidemic of disease Lost nearly half the original group.
- Native Americans outnumbered the Colonists 2-1.

Thanksgiving Proclamation – Oct. 3, 1863

- the **last Thurs of November** – it followed the Civil War.
- Many become widows, orphans, mourners,
Abraham Lincoln hoped it would help “heal the wounds of the nation.”

War isn't easy. Some are going thru their own wars/battles now.

2 Chronicles 20 –King Jehoshaphat. Facing attack, called to pray/fast.

“For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” **20:12**

Lesson: Fix your eyes on God tonight.

It's His battle - not yours.

And when you've come thru the battle – give thanks!