

## 11-27-2024 – Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving – before it began in Plymouth, 1621... Bible: give thanks.  
George W., 1789. Lincoln, 1863. Lobbied by Sarah Hale. Middle of C.W.  
History is – thanks, we survived.

- Thanksgiving has never been about “no problems.”

**Psalm 107-** <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—

those he redeemed from the hand of the foe . . .

<sup>4</sup> Some wandered in **desert** wastelands . . . <sup>5</sup> They were hungry and thirsty,  
and their lives ebbed away. <sup>6</sup> Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.

<sup>7</sup> He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

<sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

<sup>9</sup> for **he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.**

<sup>10</sup> Some sat in **darkness**, in utter darkness, **prisoners** suffering in iron chains,

<sup>11</sup> b/c they rebelled against God’s commands & despised the plans of the Most High.

<sup>12</sup> So he subjected them to bitter labor... they stumbled & there was no one to help.

<sup>13</sup> Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, **and he saved them from their distress.**

<sup>14</sup> He **brought them out of darkness**, . . . and **broke away their chains.**

<sup>15</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind . . .

<sup>17</sup> Some . . . **suffered affliction because of their iniquities** . . .

<sup>19</sup> Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

<sup>20</sup> He sent out his word **and healed them**; he **rescued them from the grave.**

<sup>21</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. . .

<sup>23</sup> Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters.

<sup>24</sup> They saw the works of the Lord ... the **tempest was raging** ... courage melted away.

...<sup>28</sup> . . . they cried out to the Lord . . . & he brought them out of their distress.

<sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper . . . <sup>31</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord . . .

. . . <sup>42</sup> The upright see and rejoice, but all the wicked shut their mouths.

<sup>43</sup> Let the one who is wise heed these things & ponder the loving deeds of the Lord.

Has the Lord redeemed you? Healed you? Calmed . . . Then speak up! **Give thanks.**

Once, in a small coastal town, lived a fisherman named Silas, known for his reckless behavior and disregard for his family. He spent most of his time at sea, often losing himself in the dangerous pursuit of big catches, neglecting his wife and young daughter. His addiction to the thrill of the ocean led him to make increasingly risky choices, pushing his loved ones further away.

One stormy night, Silas ventured out into the sea despite warnings from the other fishermen. The tempestuous waves tossed his boat violently, and he was nearly swept away. In the midst of this life-threatening situation, Silas felt a profound moment of clarity. He realized the depth of his mistakes and the pain he had caused his family. With a desperate plea, he promised to change if he made it back to shore.

Miraculously, Silas managed to navigate back to land, battered but alive. He returned home, a changed man, and humbly apologized to his wife and daughter. He vowed to be a better husband and father, dedicating himself to a more responsible life. The family, though initially skeptical, was moved by his genuine remorse and began to rebuild their bond.

At Thanksgiving, Silas prepared a large feast for his family and the community, inviting those who had previously shunned him due to his past actions. As they gathered around the table, Silas shared his story of redemption, expressing profound gratitude for the opportunity to make amends and for the love that had remained steadfast even during his darkest times. The community was touched by his transformation and celebrated with him, understanding the true meaning of thanksgiving - not just for the harvest, but for the gift of redemption and a second chance.