



HAPPY THANKSTAKING
Part 3: "Thank You for Thanking Me"

November 18, 2018
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**WHEN I EMBRACE THE GRATITUDE OF
OTHERS...**

**1. ...I AM ABLE TO REALLY SEE WHAT
PEOPLE VALUE MOST**

"Give everyone what you owe them. If you owe them any kind of tax, then pay it. Show respect to those you should respect. And show honor to those you should honor."

Romans 13:7 (ERV)

"Would you do me a favor, friends, and give special recognition to the family of Stephanas? You know, they were among the first converts in Greece, and they've put themselves out, serving Christians ever since then.

1.

I want you to honor and look up to people like that: companions and workers who show us how to do it, giving us something to aspire to. I want you to know how delighted I am to have Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus here with me. They partially make up for your absence! They've refreshed me by keeping me in touch with you. Be proud that you have people like this among you.

1 Corinthians 16:15-18 (MSG)

2. ...I BECOME MORE SENSITIVE TO MEETING FELT NEEDS

“The Son of Man will come again in his great glory, with all his angels. He will be King and sit on his great throne. All the nations of the world will be gathered before him, and he will separate them into two groups as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. The Son of Man will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to the people on his right, ‘Come, my Father has given you his blessing. Receive the kingdom God has prepared for you since the world was made. I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

Then the good people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?' Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.'"

Matthew 25:31-40 (NCV)

"If anyone sees a fellow believer in need and has the means to help him, yet shows no pity and closes his heart against him, how is it even possible that God's love lives in him? Beloved children, our love can't be an abstract theory we only talk about, but a way of life demonstrated through our loving deeds."

1 John 3:17-18 (TPT)

3. ...I CAN SILENCE THE VOICE OF FALSE HUMILITY IN MY MIND

"Here's what I mean: the body is not made of one large part but of many different parts. Would it seem right for the foot to cry, 'I am not a hand, so I couldn't be part of this body'? Even if it did, it wouldn't be any less joined to the body. And what about an ear? If an ear started to whine, 'I am not an eye; I shouldn't be attached to this body,' in all its pouting, it is still part of the

body. Imagine the entire body as an eye. How would a giant eye be able to hear? And if the entire body were an ear, how would an ear be able to smell? This is where God comes in. God has meticulously put this body together; He placed each part in the exact place to perform the exact function He wanted. If all members were a single part, where would the body be? So now, many members function within the one body. The eye cannot wail at the hand, 'I have no need for you,' nor could the head bellow at the feet, 'I won't go one more step with you.' It's actually the opposite. The members who seem to have the weaker functions are necessary to keep the body moving; the body parts that seem less important we treat as some of the most valuable; and those unfit, untamed, unpresentable members we treat with an even greater modesty. That's something the more presentable members don't need. But God designed the body in such a way that greater significance is given to the seemingly insignificant part. That way there should be no division in the body; instead, all the parts mutually depend on and care for one another. If one part is suffering, then all the members suffer alongside it. If one member is honored, then all the members celebrate alongside it."

1 Corinthians 12:14-26 (TVB)