

Thanking Through The Everyday

Week 1

Gratitude is not just something you feel after the harvest — it is something you do in the middle of the field.

BIG IDEA: Gratitude isn't just recognizing what God has given us; it's faithfully using what He's placed in our hands to make a difference in the lives of others.

MAIN SCRIPTURES:

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – Be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances.
2. Luke 12:48 – From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.
3. Jonah 2:9 – Jonah worships and expresses faithfulness to God while still inside the fish.
4. 2 Corinthians 4 – What is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
5. Matthew 9:36 – Jesus sees the crowds with compassion because they are like sheep without a shepherd.
6. Matthew 9:37-38 – The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
7. Matthew 10:5 – Jesus sends out the twelve apostles.
8. 2 Corinthians 9:6 – Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

MAIN POINT: When we truly recognize God's goodness in our everyday lives, our thankfulness should move us from simply receiving His blessings to faithfully putting them into action.

CONTEXT:

1. Be Thankful for What You Already **HAVE**

Gratitude begins when we stop fixating on what we do not yet have and start recognizing what God has already placed in our hands.

Paul commands us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 to be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances — not just when life lines up with our expectations.

What used to be a prayer request can quietly become something we take for granted.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Always be joyful, never stop praying, and give thanks in all circumstances — this is God's will for you.

Luke 12:48 - From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.

2. Recognize That Gratitude Carries **RESPONSIBILITY**

Stewardship is simply recognizing that everything we have comes from God and that we are responsible for how we use what He has entrusted to us.

The word “stewardship” covers far more than finances — it includes our time, talents, relationships, opportunities, and even our pain.

Gratitude is not just recognizing the blessing; it is recognizing the responsibility that comes with the blessing.

What is one thing in my life right now that started as a prayer request and has quietly become something I no longer thank God for?

3. Thank God **WHILE** You Are Still Going Through It

Paul does not say give thanks **FOR** all circumstances — he says give thanks IN all circumstances.

Those are two very different things.

You do not have to be grateful for the diagnosis, the loss, or the hurt — but even inside a difficult season, you can thank God that He has not abandoned you and that your circumstances do not get the final word.

Jonah 2:9 - Jonah worships and vows faithfulness to God while he is still inside the fish, before he is delivered. 2 Corinthians 4 - What we can see is temporary, but what we cannot see is eternal, so we do not lose heart.

4. The Harvest Is Great — **BECOME** Part of It

In Matthew 9, Jesus heals the sick, restores sight to the blind, and raises the dead — and the crowds are amazed. But Jesus does not stop to celebrate the size of the crowd. He looks at the people with compassion, sees their confusion and need, and says the harvest is great but the workers are few.

Then in Matthew 10, He sends those same disciples — the ones He told to pray for workers — out into the harvest themselves.

Matthew 9:36 - Jesus saw the crowds as confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd, and had compassion on them.

Matthew 9:37-38 - The harvest is great but the workers are few, so pray for the Lord to send more workers into His fields.

Jesus told His disciples to pray for more workers, and then He made them the answer to their own prayer.

Matther 10:5Jesus sent out the twelve apostles

We may be praying for God to do something He has already given us an opportunity to be part of doing.

Where is God inviting me to move from praying for the harvest to actually working in it?

5. Let Thankfulness Turn Into **GENEROSITY**

Generosity is the outward expression of an inward conviction that everything we have belongs to God.

Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians 9:6 that the person who plants generously will receive a generous crop — not as a formula to get more from God, but as a picture of how our willing, cheerful participation in His work multiplies beyond ourselves.

God is not asking you to have what someone else has; He is asking you to be faithful with what He has entrusted to you.

2 Corinthians 9:6 - A farmer who plants only a few seeds gets a small crop, but the one who plants generously gets a generous crop.

6. What Are You **BRINGING** to the Table?

Three Challenges:

A. Thank God for what He has already done — Before asking for anything else, remember His faithfulness and the prayers He has already answered.

- What I need to stop and thank God for right now.

B. Thank God while you are still going through it — You do not have to pretend everything is fine, but you can trust that God is still present and that this is not the whole story.

- What I am still in the middle of that I can choose to bring before God with gratitude today:

C. Turn thankfulness into action — Ask God the one question from the sermon: “What is in my hands that You want to use?”

- What God may be asking me to bring — time, ability, resources, story, or a step of faith I have been putting off:

DISCUSSION AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

Do I tend to show up to church — and to life — expecting to enjoy what others have prepared, or am I genuinely asking what God has placed in my hands to bring? Where is there a gap between how grateful I say I am and how generous I actually live?

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Matthew 9:35-38, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. Respond: Choose one specific, concrete way to work the harvest this week — invite one person to church, volunteer in one ministry, write one encouragement to someone who is going through a hard season, or take one step of financial generosity you have been delaying. Do not wait for a perfect season to begin.

My next step / prayer