

Expose 47 K11

When Thanksgiving Goes wrong

Hello world, this is Expose 247 and you know what we do here. We pull out biblical verses and mix scriptures together to show and acknowledge that Christ is Lord. And that is the centrality of the message. And to discredit every other claims. You know we regard those claims as false. And that is what we've been doing for the past 46 episodes. And today we are continuing in that tradition, and we are still on the Knock Out Series. You know what we've been knocking out for the past ten episodes.

So today we are doing a knock out series on thanksgiving. So are there things to knock out in thanksgiving. Because you know thanksgiving is like a joyous time, a time to celebrate, a time to praise. So let's look into what the Lord will want us to know today. So would you want to remind our viewers on what this is going to be about?

Now viewers all over the world, thank you for joining us today again on this knock out series. Again I will reiterate the vision behind this series. And that's Colossians Chapter 2 verse 8 that says **“take heed that no man spoil you or cheat you out of your inheritance in Christ by vain traditions and lots of philosophies of men that can deprived us of the benefits of Christ”**

Please don't get it all twisted. We are not being picky on these series. We are not just trying to pick up topics on things that people do in the body of Christ. But the reason why we are actually focusing on these things is because there are lot of traditions of men and misconception, philosophies that has come in into some of these practices in the church and those conceptions and ideologies are depriving us of the benefits of Christ. And that is why we are concern about them. We are not just concerned for being concern sake. We are concerned because not being concerned about them can actually take us out of the benefits of the inheritance we have in Christ Jesus. And that is the reason why we've been going through different aspect and topics on this Knock Out series.

But today we are focusing on thanksgiving. Now the questions is, **is it actually thanksgiving what people do today when they begin to make comparison and say we give thanks to God because am better than that person, or because this year I did not die, my friends die, or something bad happen to them and it did not happen to me therefore I give thanks to God. Now is this actually the thanksgiving that we have in the scripture? And are we not losing on the power**

or potency of thanksgiving by doing thanksgiving the wrong way? And that is what we are knocking out today on this knock series.

Yeah, I didn't expect any much controversy on thanksgiving. You know we could understand for time and season and everything like that, really I think our viewers should be opening their hands and feeling relax today or whichever way, whichever posture today and wonder what? I mean you are wondering can thanksgiving go wrong? That is the question.

Well you see, very soon you will find out from the scriptures that thanksgiving can go wrong. In fact not just go wrong it can actually lead you out of the benefits of what you should be taken out of what Christ did on the cross for us.

Now let's get straight to work.

Now if you there, am going to start with a very great part of the scripture. Luke Chapter 18.

Now this is quite interesting because this is Jesus Christ himself speaking about the notion of thanksgiving in the scripture.

Now am going to kick start with Luke Chapter 18 from verse 9 and let's look at the discourse in the Bible regarding the whole notion of thanksgiving.

Now I'll read Luke Chapter 18 verse 9. Now see what it says

9. And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Now have you noticed that he says the basis of some of people's righteousness is their ability to despise others. Does that make sense? It means people gain their righteousness by looking at the fact that they are better at least than other people. I mean at least you can say I don't steal, I don't lie, I have never killed anyone, I think I am better.

So Jesus was speaking this parable concerning people who actually measure their own righteousness on the basis that at least they are better than others. So they have to despise others, they have to pull down others so that they can feel good.

Now let's continue with this. That is not even the focus, the focus is what happened in verse 10.

Look at Luke 18 verse 10

10. Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Amazing! He said two men went up to the temple to pray.

Now you see, prayer is something that everyone like to do because we know the power and the potency of prayer that you can create changes in the place of prayer. You can connect to the Father of light in the place of prayers. So two men went up to pray.

Now the next thing says then, the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. That is interesting and I know today when we hear about Pharisee today in most cases most Christians have a negative connotation of who Pharisees are. And the reason we have this negative concept about them is because of what we read about in the Bible that Jesus said about them.

But you see in reality if you had lived in the time of the Pharisees, you wouldn't have such a bad connotation about who they were because the Pharisee back then were the spiritual elites. They are the ones at the top of the temple. They were so call the leader of the household of God. They were people that were respected because they were the custodians of the law. If you wanted to understand what was in the scroll you go to the Pharisees, because they have deep understanding of what God was saying. If you want to find people who are very close to God, who know who God is, and what God is saying, you talk to the Pharisees.

Now please just because Jesus spoke about them in the bad way and the reason we have the benefit because we are reading the Bible about the Pharisees. But don't forget the fact that if you were in the days of the Pharisees, they were the spiritual grand masters. You would not be able to fault them. You couldn't fault them. They were the spiritual grandmaster. They were the leaders of temple.

So don't read it like we are reading it now in the fact that we know what Jesus said about them as being hypocrites. But back then you will see them as people you can look forward to. People whose level of holiness, of righteousness, of purity is something you ...They were just like spiritual role models. Something to aspire to. Because there was nothing... In fact you could hardly fault them, they were so perfect in their ways.

So here was a Pharisee, a man that is actually supposed to be the custodians of the temple. Somebody who actually had deep insight of who God is. Now how did we

know that? Paul spoke about the Pharisees, he gave us that credentials. We are not going to go into that.

But please, this was a man that was spiritual. If that is what we can use. Here come a spiritual man in the temple and the other person was a publican. Well somebody you can call a sinner. And you know what the publicans were, let me give you a back drop of who the publicans were in the bible. The publicans were the people who actually collect the taxes. They were called the tax collector. One thing about them is, everybody hated them. And this is the reason because they were actually appointed by the Roman government to take taxes from people. And if you go by what John the Baptist spoke about them, he actually did say that these tax collectors they actually take more than they should take. In fact they take taxes from people and they actually exhort money from people beyond what they should take and they keep some for themselves and remit the remaining to the government. So they were highly hated by people. Highly corrupted. That's what Zacchaeus was. They were tax collectors.

You see that is why Zacchaeus told Jesus that if I had stolen from any man I will return four folds. They were thieves. They steal from people. So they were badly... they had a bad reputation among the people.

So look at this, there were two men who actually approach the place of prayer. The Spiritual grandmaster, highly respected for being close to God, the Pharisee, and the other person who actually had no level of morality. Somebody who was hated to the extreme. Now two men approach God in the place of prayer.

Now see what the next verse says which is verse 11. Now this is where we come to the point of our thanksgiving.

Now watch this! Verse 11 simply says

11. ...The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Now he says listen to the prayer points of the Pharisee. So Jesus ... now don't forget this....

Let me give you a background of this parable. Here was Jesus giving a parable and don't forget if you read Luke Chapter 18 from verse 1 right up to verse 8 it was a parable about prayer. So Jesus was still continuing his parable on the context of prayer. So he's giving the second parable starting from verse nine about the whole notion of prayer. So verse 11 again let's go back there.

11. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Now if you like to pray, and I think every Christians who understand the power of God in their life, every Christians who is interested in bringing heaven to the earth. I think prayer should be something very important to you. And you need to listen to what Jesus has to say about prayer.

Now Jesus said about this Pharisee in verse 11.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

See what he said.

He prayed thus with himself. He said God, here start the prayer points. He said God. Now look at this he said God I thank you. Now he said God I thank you.

Ok this is a man who was giving thanks to God. He said God I thank you.

Can anything be wrong with that? What is wrong with a man giving thanks to God? I mean this spiritual grandmaster, a Pharisee, a man who was highly spiritual, a man that concerning the law he was faultless, Paul said that in Philippians Chapter 3. That I was faultless concerning the law. So this man said to God I thank you in the place of prayer...

Oh good! Now please I want you listen to this prayer point. He said I thank you. So this is my reason to give thanks to God which is great. Now if you look at the title of this knock out series today, it talks about what? It says when thanksgiving go wrong? Now the question is can thanksgiving go wrong? Yes of course just wait.

Look at what the scriptures says. Here is a man giving thanks to God like you would give thanks to God. You know... I think now is very common which is a very good thing that people choose a particular Sunday of the month maybe the last Sunday of the month or first Sunday of the month to give thanks to God. What a great way to give thanks to God. So here come a man giving thanks to God.

Look at verse 11, he said God I thank you. Now let's listen to the basis of his thanks.

You see, if we think anytime we say God I thank you. Now is not about the words that we say that matters. Is about the mentality of what we are saying. What is the foundation? What is driving the statement? Every time people gives thanks to God, what is driving that word? Is not about what we says, because God is not as interested in what you say as much as he is interested in the heart that is saying what you say.

That is why you see your salvation is not about what you says, you've got to believe in your heart.

So this man says God I thank you. Now Jesus is going to give us an x-ray of the foundation or the basis of his thanksgiving. And I want you to look at this x-ray of Jesus about this man that said I thank you.

Now let's follow this man through why is he thanking God? And what is all about his thanksgiving? See what he says in the next verse.

He says

God I thank you, am reading Luke 18 verse 11 if you are just joining us.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Ok, Can you see that? Now we understand the foundation for his thanks. He said the reason I thank you is because I am not like... Now see what he said

I am not as other men are

Now this is the problem now. Don't forget that Jesus is giving this parable to teach us how to explore the device of thanksgiving in the place of prayer. Jesus is saying here come a spiritual man, the spiritual grandmaster the Pharisee who says Father the reason why am thanking you is because....

Now I want you to watch the word because. He said the reason am thanking God is because I am not like other men.

Now please, thus that sound familiar to how people give thanks today in the body of Christ? Does that bear any correlation, any resemblance to the foundation of what we thank God.

Now you might not say exactly what he said. People say well Father I thank you because at least am not like others in 2016 about two thousand people died in the plane crash but I did not die, Father I thank you.

Now see when we are talking about the basis for this man thanksgiving. He looks as he's innocent. Because this man is saying I thank you am not like other people. My portion is not like other people. My experience is not like other people. And that is the foundation for my thanksgiving.

Now let's look at the approval or disapproval of Jesus upon such foundation of thanksgiving. Now see what he said. Now let's go straight unto this man. He says again, he said

...I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

Can you see that? Now he say extortioners, unjust, adulterers or even as this publican. See he even has the gut to even point to the other person that was praying beside him. He even has the gut to say well I thank you that my life is not like this person.

Now so begin to understand the foundation of his thanksgiving. Now we know the reason why he was thanksgiving God.

Have you noticed that this thanksgiving is all about him? Now see, this is where we say thanksgiving can go wrong. And what you need to understand is, I think there is this notion we have, we think as long as people actually splash the name of God or the name of Jesus on anything, then it has to be God. How can a man said oh God I thank you? Have you noticed that the very first thing he said O God I thank you, and as soon as he said that he switch over from God and it was all about himself.

And you see when Jesus said it is not those that say to me Lord, Lord that will enter the kingdom but those that do the will of my Father. People think that what Jesus was trying to say is you can't just call me Lord Lord that is not enough, you need to do everything I told you to do. Well is deeper than that. What Jesus was simply saying is some people can just give me lip service and say Lord, but the mentality that they have and all what they say or what they do actually takes attention from me as God and put attention on themselves but yet they just splash the name of God on what they are doing or some they can splash the name of God...

So here... Just because people splash the name of God is not enough. Is not about it. You can even put the name of God in what you are doing but all over is all about you.

Here was a man who was giving thanks. And we thought this thanksgiving was to God but all did was splash the name of God. Like you are putting a cream on a cake. He splash the name of God, and as soon as he just splash the name of God it was all about I am not like... I am not like, I am not like that person. And you see, he's saying God I thank you because at least my life is not like the other person. This is not about God really. This is all about me having a life that is better than others. That is why am giving thanks.

Now again, if you hold on. We would see if this kind of thanksgiving, is the foundation of your thanksgiving when your thanksgiving is all about the fact that thank God that my life this time around at least better than the person who is next door. Or at least my life, my experience so far is at least better than my mates. Or at least my life and my experience so far is at least better than those in my group.

Now if that's the foundation of your thanksgiving, let's see how this kind of thanksgiving is approve or disapprove by Jesus himself. Don't forget Jesus, he is prayer himself. In fact the disciples went to Jesus and say Lord teach us to pray. Nobody can teach you to pray more like Jesus can. Listen to what Jesus has to say about this kind of prayer, about this kind of mentality in the place of prayer.

Again he says, look at verse 12. He continued his rants about him and the basis for his thanksgiving. In verse 12 he says

12. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Now again, now you see when most people talk about giving tithes. Some people even argue should we give tithes over the gross? Should we give tithes over the net? Should we give tithes over this? But this is a man that says am not even talking about gross or net, I give tithe over all, over everything. I've done everything,

Now you see again! Again! Again! I want you to understand something. The package of what this man is trying to say is, he's trying to say this is the reason. You see, here goes a man who supposedly were saying God I thank you. But look at the content at what he's simply saying. He's simply trying to justify the reason why God has to favour him, compare to the man who was beside him. That's why he pointed to the publican...I am not like him, I am not like him. He's providing a justification for why life has to be better for him compare to the man who was standing beside him. At least he was listing out his credentials to God why God needs to listen to him.

Because you wonder if this man was saying God I thank you and everything he was saying was focused on himself, then why bothered to pray? Well this is the reason because if you are confused about it, here comes a man who is actually in a confusion of mentality. How can you be saying God I thank you and yet all what you are saying is about what you did, what you do. This is the reason. The reason why he was giving his credentials to God is to tell God why God has to listen to what he has to say. And he's even wondering why the other man was busy kneeling down beside him when he doesn't even qualify to pray. The other person doesn't qualify to pray.

So let's go on,

He said,

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Look at verse 13

13. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying God be merciful to me as a sinner.

Now,

but smote upon his breast, saying God be merciful to me as a sinner.

That is Luke 18 verse 13

Now let's say this. I think always this kind of confusion between what is mercy and what is grace? In simple terms, now we don't want....today is not our focus to begin to define this terms and go into scriptures. But in summary mercy is you asking God not to deal based on what you deserve.

I'll say that again, mercy is asking God not to deal with you based on what you deserve. Don't forget here comes a man in previous verse who is saying to God I thank you, at least I am not like this other man. Which is simply saying God you know what, I think I 've done enough, I've actually pay my tithe, I have given this, I've fast twice a week, I do all these. This is the reason why you need to listen to me. Now here was a man saying that. But the second person says God be merciful to me a sinner. Don't treat me as I deserve.

And you see this is why mercy and grace are twins of the same thing, because grace says you will get what you don't deserve. Mercy says don't give me what? I deserve. Give me what? I don't deserve. That is grace. And you see here was a man who was completely depending on all what God has to offer. And he is not dependent on himself.

Again see what he says again.

Now if you look at the next verse, verse 13

That is the result

13. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying God be merciful to me as a sinner.

Now look at Jesus verdict in verse 14.

That is the report card.

Now here is the result. Let's see the result. Like you say the report card of the person that was giving thanks to God because he believes that at least am better, am comparing myself to the next person, at least am better than the other person. Am better because I think I done better, I think I have sacrifice enough for God and I think I deserve better than the other person. Giving thanks to God for that.

Now look at the report card in verse 14 of Luke 18.

14. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Now again that is the point. Am going actually dwell a bit more on this. This man went home, the man that is the publican went home justified than the Pharisee.

Now the question is when we say justification in this case, it doesn't really mean that Jesus was saying that God justified this publican and God did not justified the Pharisee. We have read before in John Chapter 3 where Jesus said I do not think I have come to condemn the world. I have not come to condemn the world, but the world through me might be saved. So God is not the one simply saying here I will justify you publican I will not justify you what? Pharisee. He only said the man who was the publican went home justified. It means how did that happened? It means then, there was something they said.

So let's go back to dissect what the Pharisee said. It means in the very thing we say in the place of prayer, in the very thing we say in the place of thanksgiving, what you say, what you speak forth, there is a way when you say it and you hear what you're saying it can either justify you.

Now you see I need to really break this down so that people can understand this. This has nothing to do with God. It has everything to do with you. There is a way you give thanks. There is a manner in which you express your thanksgiving to God that can either justify your heart before God. And if you are justify listen! Justify is just as if I have never sinned. It means I am simply saying the basis why God needs to listen to me has gone nothing to do with me and has everything to do with God.

And he said there is a way you pray. You see when you pray and when you speaks words, when your spirit hears your own words, there is way those things can qualify you or condemn your heart. And I think we need to say this, and I think we need to

digress a bit so that people can understand how the implication of giving thanks to God on the basis that you think that you are better than the next person.

You see about salvation... and I think because I don't want us to rush through this so that our viewers can get this. Now you see in salvation have you noticed Romans Chapter 10 verse 8&9&10 simply says that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart. What that means is when you speak, when you confess Jesus as Lord, you will hear that in your spirit before you believe it in your heart. First is what you say and second thing is what you hear. So when you're speaking and you confess Jesus as Lord then you are able to believe in your heart.

Again if you go to Mark 10:23 when Jesus Christ told them about the fig tree. Jesus said if you say to this mountain, be thou remove and will not doubt in your heart. Every time you speak, whatever you say there is a way it comes into your heart, and it can actually justified your heart or condemn your heart and that is the reason why the way we thank God when we are thanking God and we are giving thanks to God what happen is... that there are things we say in the place of thanksgiving and when you hear what you say it can either condemn your heart or actually justify your heart to be able to receive from God.

So here comes a man who was giving thanks to God because he believes that actually he is better than the other person. And he believes that he has a better lots than the other person. And the reason he believes he had a better lot is because he believes he has done well enough for God. He believes that he actually praise, he actually fast, he believes he that pays his tithe, and he has done all that he should do, that he deserves from God every goodness that is coming to his life.

And if that is the basis of your thanksgiving, what happen is you can never measure up to God's goodness. You can never measure up to God's standard of holiness and righteousness. And the more you pray that way, you will find your heart being condemn the more and you are not able to receive from God as you should. That is why he says this man, the Pharisee did not go home justified before God. So it means every thanksgiving that is on the foundation of you comparing yourself to others. Every thanksgiving that is on the foundation of thinking you are better than other people.

See! We are going to continue further on and we'll see the real basis for thanksgiving. The real foundation for thanksgiving. No matter what that foundation is, the foundation cannot be that you are comparing yourself with others. As Jesus has said in this parable, people that do that, they don't go justified when they actually utter such

words. Because what you say with your mouth, your heart receives. And that is what we've established with this verse.

Do you have anything to say about that?

Yeah what I want to say is that I just want our viewers to think back and know that this example rains all you know because even some on the pulpit you find them being provoked to thanksgiving using comparison. See the reason, instead of them looking we are saying the simplicity of Christ on what he has done and completed. They now try to say look at how your situation is far better than your companion, and using that you know... exalting themselves and her works instead of....

See there is something you are saying now...

Probably directing the actions of Christ. To them they asked you to put yourself on the pedestal, on the focus, so look into your life, look into your house, look into your account and so then be provoked out of that. You are the idol of yourself to give thanks. So you look at yourself. And that is why when you don't see much in us then you can be sad and depressed. And in that case, there can be so many rivalry in the church, in the place of meeting because you see and feel like No! life does not treat you well like the other. That's basis of all these thanksgiving, you can see the results of that.

So we've established today that thanksgiving cannot be on the basis of yourself. You comparing yourself to others. If that's true Jesus has used this parable to tell us you cannot give thanks to God on the basis of what is happening to you as compare to others. That is a wrong foundation for thanksgiving.

And you see there is one thing that you are talking about, and I think we need to clarify this. Have you noticed that atimes in places of worship when somebody says it is testimony time and nobody is coming out to give testimony or give thanks to God and somebody is saying you know what? Oh have you not thought about the fact that those that started this year with you are not the same people who are actually ending the year with you. Some of them have died, and they say you know what? Have you not noticed that some people are in the hospital and they have hang their legs in the hospital and they can even make it? And you see the foundation to provoke you to give thanks to God is purely on the basis that at least what is happening in your situation now is better than what other people are having.

Now that is mostly the foundation people used to drag us to thanksgiving. But now as we going to see if we carry on with us on this knock out series, you will notice that the

thanksgiving in the scriptures has no such connotation. In fact it is completely condemned in this Luke Chapter 18 as we have seen in this parable.

And we can see again we can see that from what we have seen in this Luke 18. We see that even when you are doing thanksgiving normally, is just like...we know is like offering, offering sacrifices to God and you see that it does not matter. Because we've find out today, you can say anything, you can put any name. The name of God in anything. He said Oh God I thank you. Even in songs and splash it and everything and then you find out that you are just offering sacrifices to yourself. Idolatry! Because you are putting yourself on this tool. Irrespective of what you are saying.

So most of what we practice, most of what we call thanksgiving today in the body of Christ, in our places of worship are not actually offering and sacrifices to the Lord. As in giving thanks to God. Though we sang our session, our praise session. Like this man said Oh God I thank you. Let's come into dance, we have songs, we have that, that has the name that everybody hears it and the words and the lyrics were showing that actually we are offering it to God.

Even we find our lyrics like that. Is a lyrics into yourself. Look into yourself. Look at how your situation is, look at your account, look at how you are standing, your health status. And that is why we are giving thanks. So is all about idolatry. So we are giving thanks to ourselves, because of ourselves. So we are offering sacrifices, thanksgiving, our praise services to ourselves. Is just idolatry. Though we mention the name of God in it.

So today I hope our viewers will be able to correct this and be able to know that thanksgiving is not by comparison. Whether with yourself you can... sometimes some people don't even need to compare themselves, just looking at themselves alone. Look at yourself, not that, you might have to look at yourself and compare yourself to the others. And then sometimes some people just look at yourself alone, you know is just about self-glorification. And that's what expose is about, is just Christ to revealing Christ. And that is why we are showing even in our thanksgiving that we must show and see that Christ is still the focus and not ourselves. And so not looking into ourselves, and looking into our status and feel like... looking into your health status, look at state of your account and feeling yes you are good. You feel joyful.

Like I was sharing today, serve the Lord with gladness. They can serve man and feel joyful because now they are better. And so with the day they don't feel better, you know there is no thanksgiving in that case. There is no point if it is about comparison and looking into yourself. The day they don't feel better. There is no thanksgiving.

And that is the question, you see in this Luke 18 from verse 9 all the way down. The question is what will we say about this Pharisee if he is unable to fast? What do we say if he is unable to give the tithes of all? What will he say if he is unable to actually you know do everything that he said he did? What will be the foundation of his thanksgiving? What of if he was in a position that there was nothing coming into his hands because he actually had a mind of giving the tithe of all. Because he said he the give tithe of all. What about if he is unable to give the tithe of all. If he was cut up in a bad situation in which he could not even has anything to give. He is not in that position to sow. What about if he is unable to fast if he has some medical situation unable to fast for he said I fast, I do all things?

You see this a thanksgiving that is completely connected to human performance and to what is happening. You see Jesus simply said, if you engage in such thanksgiving you cannot go away justify. You see your heart will be condemned. You heart will condemn you. And I think.... That's like those thanksgiving are conditional and seasonal. It depends on how good times are with you. And that is the things. And how good you can list your credentials. And that is the point. And you see that is why Jesus told us if you engage in such thanksgiving it does a damage to your heart.

And that is why you find that they tag most of those thanksgiving to those season and everything when people are joyful in the physical, you know when they have things to show for and people are doing stocks taking. So you find that beginning of the year, (January) end of the year and those things and more so when people get salary, you know all these things you know they find a way of timing the time of thanksgiving. Because they know is all by comparison, so if it is actually in the midst of when there is nothing, they know that people will not have a lot to be thankful for. So really, is that scriptural? Is that a New Testament?

And you see there is something you said again and I think I need to highlight more on that. The thanksgiving by comparison atimes you can compare yourself and you see not just with another person but even with yourself. By simply saying well, is January 2017 I mean you made it through all wall of 2016, you didn't die in the midst of 2016. At least you made it to the next new month. It is time to give thanks to God because you made it to the next new month.

Again if you are just turning to this live transmission. We are not being picky really, we are not just trying to find fault with practices that people do. **But what we are concern about is this, there are things that we do, there are things that we say that those things they have a way of putting a damage on our heart in the place of prayer.** And again as you can see when this Pharisee left the place of prayer, Jesus

said he didn't feel justify. He never felt justify. What is the point of you praying and as soon as you finish praying and you got to the place of prayer you don't even have enough faith?

Now you see we are going to go on today and you are going to see lots of dimension about thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is one of the most potent tool in the spirit if we use it correctly. First of all we are knocking out the wrong ideology about thanksgiving. Thanksgiving cannot be by comparison. And that is what the Bible simply say. It cannot be comparison. It cannot! Not by you comparing yourself with others or comparing yourself with yourself. You cannot actually be given scriptural spiritual thanksgiving to God by comparison.

Again if you are just joining us, you can actually have a look at Luke Chapter 18 from verse 9 to 14 where Jesus actually said you cannot do that. You cannot actually use comparison as the basis for thanksgiving.

And again... so that is what we've actually look at. We are going to move to other verses of the scripture again so that we can get deeper insight today.

We are going to read Luke Chapter 17 from verse 11.

Again, Jesus giving us deeper insight into what thanksgiving is not and what thanksgiving is. And again I repeat before we carry on, if you think we are just being very sensitive to all these things. We are not! Because how can you finish praying and you don't even feel justify? How can you finish praying and you don't have confidence to receive from God? Don't forget justification in your heart is so critical because 1John tells us in Chapter 3, he said if our hearts condemn us not, then we are able to have confidence towards God and we know that we'll received whatever we ask of him (1John 3:21).

If your heart condemns you, forget about receiving anything from God. And the Bible says there is a kind of thanksgiving you can engage in that doesn't justify your heart. That is why we are taking these things serious. So you should take it serious as well if you understand what we are talking about. When thanksgiving goes wrong. It can actually go wrong.

Look at Luke 17, we are going to read from verse 11. Again we see another insight to the whole notion of thanksgiving as Jesus will put it. I will read from verse 11.

“11. And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, (that is Jesus) that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off.

They met Jesus.

13. And they lifted up their voices, and said Jesus, master, have mercy on us.

Can you see again I repeat mercy takes the focus from you and put the focus on God, because mercy in the scriptures is telling please don't treat me as I deserve. There is nothing I can bring to the table, I cannot meet up with your standards. I cannot do this. I cannot meet up with the requirement of getting your favour. Just deal with me on a different basis beyond myself. And that is what Jesus came to do. Jesus became the propitiation for our sin. So mercy is simply telling God please don't treat me like I deserve. Can you see that? And they asked Jesus to have mercy on them.

And look at verse 14.

14. And when he saw them, he said unto them, go shew yourselves unto the priests.

And again we've actually talked about this instant before where Jesus didn't say you are healed, can you see that? Jesus said go and shew yourselves to the priest. But don't forget in the Law of Moses, you cannot go and show yourself to the priests unless you are whole.

In fact it was completely against the Law of Moses if you show yourself to the priest and you were unclean. It's a dangerous thing for you to do. So what Jesus simply saying to them, go and show yourselves to the priests, you can only go to the priests if you believe you were cleansed. So they have the faith to believe they were cleansed and that is why they went to show themselves to the priests. But that is not our focus today we are on thanksgiving today.

Now see what he says

...And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

Can you see that? As they went they were cleansed. That's what he says.

And verse 15. Luke 17 verse 15

15. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God.

See! One of them when he saw that he was healed turned back and with a loud voice can you see? He glorified God.

16. And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

And again it's important to know what this man has to say to Jesus. The Bible says he fell down on his face and he gave Jesus thanks and he was a Samaritan.

Again it's important that Bible talks to us about his cultural ethnic orientation. That is important. And the reason is, have you notice the reason why the Bible tells us about his ethnic background is because Samaritans to the Jews were not supposed to partake of God's favour. Am not sure if you understand that, that is the reason why when Jesus was asking discourse with the woman in John Chapter 4, you know the woman told Jesus that you see the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. In fact the Jews believe that the Samaritans actually were trying to force themselves into God's favour and they don't even deserve the favour of God. That is why the Samaritans worship God on different mountains. They can even come to the mountain of the Jews.

And you see you have to understand that Samaritans don't deserve the favour of God as far as the Jews are concern anyway. They don't deserve it.

And again here comes a person, a Samaritan who has received the favour of Jesus in that he was healed of leprosy and is important that we know his background because here comes somebody who didn't deserve God's favour.

You see that Syrophenician woman in Matthew 15, again Jesus said what belongs to the children shouldn't be given to the dogs. He was simply saying woman at the moment woman you don't deserve it. And the woman said well... we know the story in Mathew 15 but the whole point we are trying to make is here comes a man who knew that he never deserve what he got because he was a Samaritan. He knew that. And it came to him on that basis that I know I have received what I don't deserve and once he come, he gave thanks.

Now please there are three things in this place. Here comes somebody who knew he never deserve what he got. And he gave thanks and worship and glorified God. Now it sounds to me then, it sounds to me then every time this teaching of thanksgiving comes from Jesus, he's simply saying thanksgiving is about someone responding back to God when he believes that God is treating him not as he deserve.

I'll say that again that's the reason why in Luke 18 Jesus contrasted two people, somebody who believes that based on what he had done... the seed he had sown. If you were with us on the previous series people who sow seed and believe as he sown seed to God, people tell you know what, if you sow a seed this year, you can provoke God this year for divine protection and you are protected by God you can say that is

my seed speaking for me. You see the Pharisee was trying to tell God that you see what you need to treat me as I deserve. And that was the basis of his thanksgiving. Look at the second person in Luke 18, the other man he says have mercy on me. The point we are trying to make is, it sound to me Jesus contrasted in Luke 18 those two people to show you and I how to actually give thanks.

Here comes a man who actually give thanks. The Bible says and he was a Samaritan. That is very important. He was a Samaritan. It means he's responding back to a God who treated him not as he deserve. And this is the foundation of our faith.

The reason why some Christians don't have enough confidence in the place of prayer where they are not justify is because we are expecting God to treat us as we deserve. And as long as that's the foundation of your prayer, your thanksgiving will go wrong. Because you are going to be thanking God based on you.

Here comes a man who gave thanks. And the Bible said he was a Samaritans. So we can understand he's responding to God's goodness who actually gave him healing from leprosy in Luke 17 even though he was a Samaritan who didn't deserve it.

I hope our viewers will be able to link this thing together you know just like we said that Expose. What we are doing is to link scriptures together so that we can see the supremacy and see the centrality of Christ in this. If we are able to link this and with other of our previous episodes, we see that you will always go wrong in whatever you do be it thanksgiving, any offering or anything if we don't put that grace. To understand the concept of grace. Because we saw in that Luke 18 and also in Luke 17 we see those people that do not understand like the Pharisee that does not understand the concept of grace and feel like he has to earn it, he has to work for it.

In that case, no matter what you do at that point. Anything that is not on that premise and the foundation goes wrong whichever way. Some offerings goes wrong, thanksgiving goes wrong. Even the something that looks so noble and you have the name....you know God can understand offerings and the rest well when you are talking about thanksgiving just like a noble act and as you are even mentioning the name of God you can go wrong with it because it starts with the understanding of the concept of No! It is God. It is all by grace. It's still all about him. No man should boast. It is all by grace.

The Bible says he was a Samaritan. He gave thanks to God but he was a Samaritans. We now understand the reason why he was giving thanks. And so if your knowledge is not rooted in the concept of the grace that I have received this and is all about God. Then it has gone wrong from that point.

So the Samaritan was able to respond right because he knew that he had enjoyed this by grace. He didn't deserve it. So the other thought they have it by right maybe that is why they did not come back. The reason why he said he was a Samaritan is he had to be that the others were not. Most likely. Yeah, the others were most likely not! It wouldn't make any difference.

Because if Bible highlighted that this was a Samaritan this one didn't deserve what he got. And that is why Jesus said we will not give the meat of the children to the dogs. Bible says he was a Samaritan. He didn't deserve it. Samaritans at the time of Jesus,

Now don't get this wrong, we didn't say Jesus didn't come for the Samaritans but the fact is at the point when Jesus was walking in the flesh on the earth, he was just ministering to the Jews and that is why Romans Chapter 1 verse 16 says **am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus, it is the power of God unto salvation first to the Jews and then to the gentiles.** So the gospel was first to the Jews. Jesus ministered to the Jews. That is why in Acts Chapter 1 verse 8 he tells them go in into the world and preach the gospel starting from what? Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. You can see the gospel began at Jerusalem. It was local. It was majorly ethnic at the beginning.

So at this time when this Samaritan had the favour of God, when Jesus was walking in the flesh he never deserve it at that time. And you see the Bible says he came back and give thanks to God. So it means the whole point of his thanksgiving to say... don't forget his prayer was have mercy on us. So the whole point of his thanksgiving was thank you for treating me like I never deserve it. And that is what we've been talking about.

And then you can see from this point there is no point to be in the kingdom at all if you really want to discountenance grace. I don't know if some of our viewers are feeling so discomfort, they are feeling discomfort about this concept of grace and grace and grace and grace. Why are you talking about grace and you are emphasizing on grace? We just you know... you can't even praise aright with that understanding that you have receive everything. You can't give thanksgiving right.

You know the reason why the Pharisee in Luke 18 verse 9 gave the wrong thanksgiving. Because he didn't give it on the basis of God's goodness and God's favor and God grace. So he give thanksgiving wrongly because how can somebody start his prayer with saying O God I thank you and yet Jesus will give his commentary in verse 14 and says this man that said O God I thank you did not go home justified. Now that is a contradiction.

Now have you noticed that even the publican never said O God I thank you. Yeah so is not about what you say or putting the name of ... the person who said God I thank you was the person who was not justify. How does that make any sense spiritually speaking? How can you start with saying God I thank you and after you finished your prayer your heart was condemned before the Lord?

Is just telling us is not about the lyrics, is not about the words that we say. On what basis are we giving thanks to God? On what foundation. Is it predicated on God's goodness and God's favour, God's unconditional love, is it predicated on that or is it about us? And you see it doesn't matter if you say God I thank you and you can still go home and your heart is not justify.

You know we have this common, this notion that this common slogan in the body of Christ, in the places of worship where they tell you oh common! whatever you have used prayer to do and prayer did not work you can use praise. When praise goes on, God comes down all those kind of things. You can tell you scripture to tell you, you can pray amiss in James, but you can't praise amiss. You can praise amiss as you can see.

Luke 18 verse 9-14 is a classical example of giving thanks amiss. Praising amiss. Even though this man said O God I thank you when he started his prayer. But he went off his heart wasn't justify at all. And if your heart is not justified you will have no confidence towards God according to 1John 3 and if you have no confidence towards God you cannot receive from the Lord. And that is what the scriptures tell us.

And again now please just continue with us on this series this knock out series. We are knocking out thanksgiving today.

Look at Luke 17 again this man Bible says he was a Samaritan. Is important we know his ethnicity. He was a Samaritan. And look at verse 17

17. And Jesus answering said, were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?

And you see what is amazing to me again, again Luke 17 verse 17. Don't forget one thing, when this man came back to give thanks to God. I was looking for him to make a commentary that says Jesus you know what there were ten of us you prayed for us. We were ten, and only me came back to give thanks to you. Can you see that? What do you think about my spirituality? What do you think about my ability to be able to appreciate my goodness? What do you think about the fact that at least am better than them? Because here is an opportunity for him, because at least they were ten, this time

to show Jesus why he thinks he had a better notion than the other nine when he came back to Jesus for the Bible says he gave thanks. This was a perfect opportunity for this man to actually show forth himself to Jesus in his thanksgiving. He never did.

So most of our thanksgivings are showing forth....

Here was an opportunity for this leper who was healed to tell Jesus at least I have enough sense with me to come back. I mean here was an opportunity but he never did. Don't forget he was giving thanks. So it means he came back and gave thanks to Jesus for what Jesus did and he never at any time pointed Jesus to the other nine for why he thought what he did was actually better than what the other nine did.

Thanksgiving is not comparison. Thanksgiving is not about you. Thanksgiving is up to God who is actually giving you something that you don't deserve.

And then thanksgiving again is not though he is not even about comparison then is not about giving your own credentials again. Giving God your credentials and why you think God has to bless you or why you feel you deserve that blessing. or why you think that is the reason why you did not die in 2016 now you know why? All because you sow the seed, or because you know you pray longer or because you believe that at least you've actually done things that is pleasing to God and that is why God has to protect you and at least for those people that perish we don't know what happen to them

You see this man came back to Jesus in this Luke 17 and he gave thanks and he made no reference to the other nine. And you see the point we are trying to make is, it's not until you despise or push down others in the place of thanksgiving. That is not the basis of thanksgiving, that is not the foundation of thanksgiving. That is what we are knocking out today. You know you are telling...

And you see when we say such things, we make God sound like God's favour is selective. We make it sounds like well those people who are perishing it means that you know we don't know what happen to them at least God is specially favoring, my own case is different. Now people actually in thanksgiving on such kind of statement and we don't see such statement right in the Bible. Not at all! And that is what we are knocking out today.

In fact Acts Chapter 10 verse 34 Peter said now I know that God is no respecter of persons. God is no respecter of any one. God doesn't have any special favour on people. In fact book of James Chapter two says don't have the faith of our Lord Jesus with respect of person (James 2:1). God doesn't have any special favour for any one. The Bible says for God so love the world so there are times there are some things we

say in the place of thanksgiving that paint the wrong picture about the goodness of God to people. It paints the wrong picture about God's favour to people. And that is very thing we are knocking out today on this particular series.

And as we can see too in that Luke 18, we can see the content of that thanksgiving so I want our viewers to look into their heart and sit down with themselves in their heart and I look at the content of what they give as thanksgiving. Because we see that man, we see the Pharisee he was just showing off all his credentials. Most of what we can thanksgiving today are just moment to show off, to put ourselves on the pedestal and tell about our credentials and why we think we deserve everything that happen to us. And how we are enjoying this and then trying to... you said something like pushing some other down because by the time you are showing off, you got to put other people down so that you can look better. That is it! That is what comparison does too. It puts you up and push some others down. Yes, so that you can shine. So you are technically pushing some other down, don't forget you are still staying O God I thank you because this man said O God I thank you in Luke 18.

Now again we are going to finish this Luke 17 before... look at Luke 17 the last verse we read was verse what?

Jesus now is responding in verse 17

17. And Jesus answering said, were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?

That is what Jesus was saying. Now look at verse 18

18. There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

Except this stranger. Somebody who was a stranger to the commonwealth of Israel.

Can you see that?

Now look at verse 19

19. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Now this is very very very very important. Now you will, if you see this verse 19, you will know the reason why we are on this transmission today. Look at verse 19

He said unto him, arise, go your way; now your faith has made you whole.

Now listen!

So what happened before?

Jesus didn't say I declare into your life am making you whole. Now this's very important. Now you now know the reason why we are being picky about thanksgiving. You now understand why this topic is so critical. Is not something you can say are they talking about thanksgiving today? Are these people just picking any topic and talking about everything as if is wrong?

Now you will understand why in this verse 19, Luke 17 verse 19.

Now listen Jesus did not say am declaring into your life be whole. He didn't say that. Watch the statement! He says your faith has made thee whole. Your faith, your own faith made you whole. It sounds to me that Jesus was only just making an announcement of what is obvious.

Again I repeat it sounds like Jesus was only commenting on what he seen that is happening to the man. And you see if you noticed, let me help you with this. Look at the woman who had the issues of blood, anytime you see Jesus talking about your faith has made you whole, he only says that when he know that person is talking to has actually caught something others are not catching.

If you notice that woman with the issue of blood when he was following Jesus, even Jesus said to the disciples virtue went out of me. So Jesus was simply saying to them, I did not sit down at the round table to have a discussion about whom to favour today or the person we should healed today. If Jesus said this woman did something. She drew something out of me. This man operated something that drew something out of me even I didn't have to make a decision about this woman's healing. And Jesus said to that woman, daughter your faith again has made you whole

The reason I went to that particular episode is to tell you that Jesus always make a statement when somebody catches something based on how they operated themselves not on the fact that Jesus himself actually decide over their case. So Jesus said your faith has made you whole.

It means then let's compare and contrast this with Luke 18. Jesus said there is a way you gave thanks to God, there is a way you glorify God for favoring you being a Samaritan, for the way God shows you his goodness even though you didn't deserve it. And He said there is a way you did it that made faith to arise in you, that made you to be able to receive your whole healing. He said your faith, not my faith, not my words, not my declaration. You see there are times Jesus send forth his Word, in fact we had cases where Jesus had to release his Word for somebody to be healed. But in this case, he said is just all about your faith.

Now what are we saying it simply means thanksgiving is a very very critical tool in the hands of a Christian. If thanksgiving is done the right way it should be done, it can make us in a way standing in a position that is able... making us to have faith to be able to receive from God. But if thanksgiving is done in the wrong manner, it will do what happen in Luke 18 to us of a man who left the place of prayer and didn't even feel he was qualify to receive from the Father.

Now we have two instances now, and we are going to break this down further on.

In Luke 18 we have a man who gave thanks but left the place of prayer and he wasn't justify. In Luke 17 we had a man who gave thanks and Jesus said your thanksgiving process has made you to have faith to receive wholeness into your life. Now it means this man in Luke 17 do differently than the man in Luke 18 did not do.

Now we see what is thanksgiving? And that is why you need to stick with us because from tomorrow we'll begin to look at the insight that the bible gives about thanksgiving.

What is the link between the thanks that was given in Luke 17 verse 19 that made a person who simply gave thanks, have you noticed and I think we need to look at... have you noticed that this man in Luke 17 up to verse 19 did not actually pray any prayer for wholeness? Have you noticed this man in Luke 17 verse 19 did not actually say Jesus make me whole. He did not even make any petition for wholeness to Jesus. All he did what was? He gave thanks and glorify God. How did that impacts faith for him for wholeness? And that is the connection we are making on our next series about thanksgiving.

Did we all get that? Because thank you for bringing that one out. Because in that story, that verse 19 was telling us that there is a difference between being cleansed and wholeness. That is the thing. And then you said something which we read then verse 19 that says thy faith has made you whole. So there are some thanksgiving that can build your faith and some thanksgiving makes you go away not justify in Luke 18.

Can you see that?

So you can see that some thanksgiving can make you to build your faith and then some thanksgiving that raise you from the level of being cleansed to wholeness. So if you are thinking thanksgiving it doesn't matter what topic are we talking about? It does matter! We can see that with thanksgiving you can go on justify and when you are unjustified you don't have the confidence to receive anything from God, so you shut yourself from the receive arena by just not thanking aright.

There is a way you thank God that can make you come in Luke 18 or it could be in Luke 17. So there is a way you thank God that close the door, that you cannot even enter to receive because you don't go justify. You feel condemn in your heart. Then there is a way you thank the Lord that you have your faith being built just by thanking. Have you notice there is no other prayer he prayed? He just glorified and thank God that's all. If you pray aright, is a process of building up of faith.

So is not something that we are discrediting thanksgiving you can use this thanksgiving to build up your faith. And then you can use this thanksgiving to move from the state of being cleansed. You know I think the others just went cleansed. Because it was merely physical. It was just bodily for them. But this is a man that bible say you were made whole. The Bible says in 1Thessalonians Chapter 5 it says may your spirit, soul and body be preserve wholly, complete, compete deliverance. (Complete Package).

And he says this man built up his faith on what? Just by glorifying God and giving thanks to God. Even for your testimony, your miracles you can get an icing on it and you know you can move from being cleansed to wholeness ,that is the one touching the spirit, soul and body. You can have a complete package by thanking aright. By doing the thanksgiving the way it should be done.

I just hope that this episode has enrich our thanksgiving moment to know what thanksgiving should not be about. That it shouldn't be about comparison, it shouldn't be about us, about idolatry, about ourselves, looking into our lives to see this why am going to give thanks today. The only person we look, we put on the stage, on the pedestal is Christ and looking at what he has done and looking at him.

So is not about looking into ourselves, looking at what we have unto ourselves and giving thanks based on that. And is not about looking into others and looking at comparing yourself (at least am better) and then pushing yourself or presses somebody down in the place of thanksgiving.

And is not about just relaying out showing forth your credentials and giving reasons why you think you deserve the present privilege, why you think you qualify. And on that basis you are giving thanks. So we can see from all these verses that we read today that those are not the basis for thanksgiving.

And we cannot just say that we are not going to take this issue very important because we need it to feel justify. You know your feeling is a different thing where the Lord justify you and you don't even feel justify yourself. (Leaving the place of...) A sense of justification. You really need to deal with it because you know what the book of

John was telling about the condemnation, feeling that condemn in your heart. You cannot even... Is not about honor giving you but you be in a position not to receive, cutting yourself from the reception area when you can get, receive, by just your attitude of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving affects all these things and that is why we are concern about it. And that is it!

And then we can see that the basis of thanksgiving getting it right at all is to stand on the understanding of grace. So if you understand that everything you receive all by grace and is all all by grace. When you say all by grace. You mean the all in the ALL capital ALL because some people know that they receive a part by grace so they work for the remaining. But they earn it when you know that is all by grace even the all in thanksgiving whether we mention the name of God or not into what we say you know it doesn't matter about the lyrics but we know that is all about him. It is all for him. And it is all by his grace that we have that. We will be able to come justify, we'll be able to come whole, we'll get wholeness and will have our faith being built up.

So if you are blessed by this we want you to come into the page with your comments, with your questions. We want to say we appreciate all the questions and comments so far. There are some questions we just look at Oh where is this one coming from? And some we have to... we just thank the Lord that the Lord is making you to hear what you need to hear as every person is hearing different things and what is needed. So we really want you to extend this conversation further by coming to our page if you have any questions, you have any comments, you have any encouragement, any of those things is welcome on the page.

And so we want to invite you tomorrow again this time 9am tomorrow as we'll talk about what is actually the scriptural thanksgiving that the Bible talks about? How do we thank God in such a way that we can have faith for wholeness as this man has done in Luke 17? So we are going to look at that tomorrow. So there is still more to talk about beyond this so much of examples to look into because we really need to explore this very well.

So tomorrow we still continue 9am UK time to continue on Knock Out series on Thanksgiving. And again we will like to invite. Yeah we like to invite you because if you are in the area we have a ministration in a church chapel at Christian Fellowship in Churly Lancashire. If you are in greater Manchester area or you are Lancashire area North West you can join us. We've been invited to minister in that church tomorrow from 11am roughly thereabout. If you are not able to join us you can also join us live. There will be a live transmission as well on our page during the meeting tomorrow. So you are invited to join us.

So till we connect with you tomorrow we want to say. You just have to go and look at this thanksgiving process again. We want you to share this so that others will be blessed as well and then connect with us tomorrow for this live transmission if it is possible here tomorrow and where we are ministering.

Till we see you tomorrow we want to say we release you into that wholeness of God and that you should praise aright. Do thanksgiving aright.

So bye!!!

See you tomorrow!

Bye!!