

Giving Thanks

As a counterpart to our readings about Israel complaining and murmuring in the wilderness, we could do with some scriptures about the opposite of complaining - giving thanks.

It's rare.

Gratitude of the one leper who returned

Luke 17:11-19 - "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

Gratitude for everything

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Colossians 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Ephesians 5:20 - Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Thanksgiving Accompanies Prayer

Colossians 4:2 - Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

Philippians 4:6 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Thanks just for Who God Is

Psalms 136:1-26 - O give thanks unto the LORD; for [he is] good: for his mercy [endureth] for ever...

Psalms 92:1 - [It is a] good [thing] to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High

Thanksgiving as a Sacrifice or Sweet Savor Offering

Thanksgiving is the counterpart of the acceptance offerings or the sweet savor offerings

in the Temple.

Luke 7:37- 38 - And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that [Jesus] sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind [him] weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe [them] with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed [them] with the ointment.

Luke 7:46 - My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

The similar passage in Mark says it was an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard. **(Mark 14:3-9)**

Spikenard is the consecrated incense used as part of the ingredients for the meal offerings and sweet savor offerings.

The woman was offering thanksgiving through this ointment - a feeling of thanks that overwhelmed her and was expressed through tears.

Jonah 2:9 - But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.

Hebrews 13:15 - By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name.

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 - "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:"

Ephesians 5:2 - "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour."

Ezekiel 20:41 - "I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen."

Paul thanks the Philippians for their help, which in turn came from their gratitude for Paul bringing them the gospel.

Philippians 4:18 - "I have all I need and more, now that I have received your gifts from Epaphroditus. They are a sweet smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God."