

PRAY WITH A THANKFUL HEART

When we pray to God, we must take time to praise him and give him thanks.

Read: **Philippians 4:6**

Ephesians 5:20

Colossians 4:2 1

Thessalonians 5:16-18

1. **Mark 6:33-40.** Many people came to listen to what Jesus was saying. They stayed until it was almost dark, and the disciples told Jesus to send them away so that the people could buy themselves some food. However, to the amazement of the disciples Jesus told them to feed the people. The disciples said "We don't have enough money to buy food for everyone", Jesus said; "Go and find out what you have" They found five loaves and two small fish, given by a little boy and brought these to Jesus (**John 6:9**).
2. Jesus took the boy's food in his hands, looked up to heaven and gave thanks to God (**Mark 6:41**). Jesus did not complain and say, "This isn't enough". Instead he looked up to his loving heavenly Father and thanked him for what he did have. He knew that God had great strength and unlimited power. He had made all things, and nothing is too difficult for him. Jesus believed that God could feed the 5,000 people with the small amount of food.
3. Jesus divided the food and gave it to all the disciples. They then gave it to the people who were sitting around in groups of fifty or a hundred people. Five thousand people ate the food, and the Bible says that they were satisfied. The disciples even picked up twelve baskets full of left overs. Nothing was wasted (**Mark 6:41-43**). Often we complain that we don't have enough, or that we do not have any gifts to use in God's service. God wants us to be thankful for what we do have, for he will supply everything else that is needed.
4. **John 11:12-44.** Lazarus a friend of Jesus had died, Jesus went to be with the family of Lazarus, but when he arrived he found that Lazarus had died and had already been in the grave for four days (John 11 :17). Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, I thank you that you listen to me" John II :41. Many times we wait for our prayers to be answered before we say 'thank you' to God. Jesus didn't do that. We read in the Bible, that while Lazarus was still dead, Jesus said, "Thank you."
5. When Jesus finished praying he said, "Lazarus come out!" **John 11:43.** Immediately Lazarus came alive, and walked out of the grave. Jesus also told the people to untie the grave clothes and let Lazarus go.
6. **Luke 22:17-20.** There was a lot of opposition to Jesus from the religious leaders of the Jews, and Jesus knew that he would die the next day. That night he ate with his disciples and at this time he took the bread and gave thanks to God. Then he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you," **Luke 22:19**. Jesus knew that tomorrow he would be beaten, whipped and nailed to a cross. But Jesus said, "Thank you." The reason for this is found in **Hebrews 12:2**: Jesus said "because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross. " Even though he knew he was going to suffer much pain, he said, "Thank you." He knew that later he would receive blessings and happiness from God. And it is true, Jesus is now seated at the right side of God ' s throne. We must also be strong when we are facing hard times and be thankful to God in our troubles. God uses these hard times in our lives to make us strong for him. When we get to heaven, we will see what God was doing and we will rejoice (**Rom. 8:18**).
7. **Psalm 100:** Praise God that we are able to come to him in prayer. In ourselves we are unworthy to come near to God, but because Jesus died for us and his blood has cleansed us we are able to come close to God.
 - 7.1 We must thank Jesus because he has defeated Satan and gives us victory over him (**1 Cor. 15:57**).
 - 7.2 Give thanks to God for clothes, money, food, and health that he has provided (**Psalm 103:5**).
 - 7.3 Thank God for the times that he has healed us, or someone in our family (**Psalm 103:3**).
 - 7.4 God sent Jesus as a baby. He died on the cross to take away our sins, has cleansed our hearts and given us new life. Think about all the things that God has done for us and be thankful (**2 Cor. 9:15**).
 - 7.5 We should always be thankful for the Bible. The Bible is a light to guide us, teaches us and encourages us in our walk with God (**Psalm 119:105**). We should also be thankful that we are free to join with other Christians to worship God. Many Christians in the world do not have freedom to worship God.
 - 7.6 When people insult us, lie about us, and say all kinds of evil things, we can say "thank you" to God in these circumstances. We can be joyful because our reward in heaven will be great (**Matthew 5:11-12**).

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1 MK 6:33-40
JN 6:9



2



THANK YOU




MK 6:41

3 MK 6:41-43




4 JN 11:40-42



5 JN 11:43-44



6



THANK YOU

LK 22:17-20, HEB 12:2

7

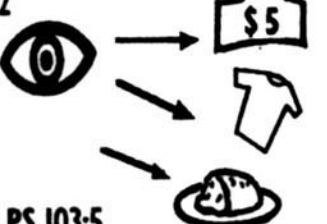


PS 100:1-5

1 I COR 15:57

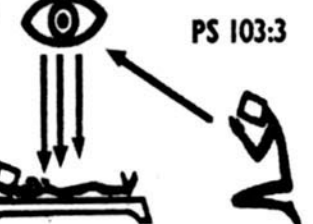


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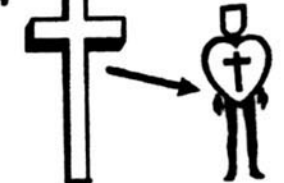


PS 103:5

3 PS 103:3


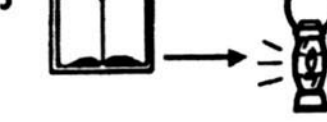


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2 COR 9:15

5



PS 119:105

6



MT 5:11-12