



“GIVING THANKS FOR BLESSINGS!”

By Mary Mayko

Psalm 118:14 “The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.”

Verse-24 “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Verse-29 “O, give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endures forever.”

Salvation means so much more than our initial *Born Again* experience! We thank God for His wonderful plan of salvation! We rejoice that we have hope in the future of seeing Jesus face to face and all the glory of heaven! Just imagine the thrill of exploring the wonders there!

While we bask in the knowledge of where we are going to spend Eternity, we need to draw on God’s power to help us in our daily walk. As we reflect on the LORD’S mercies, it will help us walk in joy and confidence here on Earth! Today’s stresses often interfere with our desire to pause and reflect on God’s blessings. His mercies and compassions never fail but are new every single morning! Are we truly thankful for His blessings?

Lam. 3:22-23 “It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness.”

How thankful we should be for all He provides for us! God’s mercy and faithfulness are blessings for His children! There are times when we fail Him in some way and feel much sorrow over it. Thankfully we can come quickly to Him and receive His mercy that brings fresh peace to our hearts! How we need to show Him we are grateful for His blessings! Our gratitude delights His heart! Everyone needs to feel appreciated or recognized for their efforts. Our LORD deserves much more praise than He receives! Gratitude is a great motivator! It makes one want to do even more to show how thankful they are!

The LORD has made every provision for every need we may have, as well as our God given desires! When we walk with Him with a clear conscience we can enjoy His blessings. Be careful when you find yourself getting angry at God over something that did not go the way *you expected!* Just be thankful God does not give us *what we really deserve!* Remember His mercy and compassions? If He rewarded us *according to our motives, just what would we receive?*

As you gather to celebrate your Thanksgiving Day in whatever manner you have decided on or traditions you may have, remember to invite the One who made all your blessings possible and thank Him for them!

REFLECTION: *"I will take courage from His sweet Word, accepting His comfort in promises I have heard! One day my struggles and concerns of this earthly journey will be past, and I'll be safely Home in Heaven, sitting at Jesus' feet at last!" MM*

Website: www.momentswithmary.org Email: mmako1968@msn.com
Mary Mayko



THANKFULNESS
Rev. J. Kehl Golding

Deut. 8:10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the GOOD LAND which He hath given you.”

1 Thess. 5:18 “In everything give thanks; for this is the WILL OF GOD in Christ Jesus CONCERNING YOU.”

The Book of Ruth opens with an Ephrathite man of Bethlehem named Elimelech. This man was from the Tribe of Ephraim; but had moved into Bethlehem in the Tribe of Judah. This would have been a major move at that time. This event is during the ruling of the Judges which had been raised up by God to deliver His people from their enemies which overtook them time and time again due to Israel’s sinning. Now is a time of great famine, and Elimelech took his wife Naomi and two sons, Malon [Heb.-sickly] and Chilion [Heb. –wasting away] to the land of Moab.

Elimelech died in Moab. While there, Malon marries Ruth, and Chilion takes Orpah to be his wife. In time, both of Naomi’s sons died, and the three women are left alone. Naomi hears the famine no longer is present in her native country, and decides to return to Judah. [Ruth 1:7] Her two daughters-in-law follow with her. But Naomi wants them each to return to their mother’s home and make a life for themselves in the native culture, which seems quite logical. [1:1, 9]

However, Ruth refuses to do so, and utters the beautiful words we hear so often! “Entreat me not to leave thee; for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God. Where thou diest, I will die, and there I will be buried: the

**Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.”
Ruth 1:16-17**

When Naomi realizes she will not go back, they travel back to her home land. When they arrive in Bethlehem all the city is excited to see her, and gives her a great welcome! “Wow! Naomi is home again!” But she says: “Don’t call me Naomi [Heb- pleasant, my delight] call me Mara [bitter, in a very bitter fashion] for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I left my home land with a husband and two sons. Now I am back EMPTY! So do not call me Naomi seeing the Lord hath testified against me. [Turned against me by His public acts]. He hath afflicted me.

Ruth 1:20-21

WOW! What an accusation against God!! A mere man [mankind] with such a charge, such an indictment of misconduct against her Creator! But notice, God never told her to change her name. That was her idea! Remember also, standing with her at this moment was her daughter-in-law that apparently loved her a great deal, and tended to her as if she were her own mother!

Notice also, that she is safely back home with loved ones that are rejoicing to see her once again! In her bitterness, she considers none of this! Talk about a PITY PARTY!! Grief and affliction make us BITTER or BETTER!! There is no in-between. Don’t think anyone escapes them, for they both come to each and every one of us! At that moment, we are overwhelmed with the event, and cannot see beyond it!

Those of us who know the Lord need only to trust in Him, knowing He knows the outcome. The Author of Hebrews was aware of that when he wrote Heb.12:11. “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but GRIEVOUS: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

You know this story of Ruth, but refresh your mind by reading chapters 2, 3, and 4. Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz, who was a near kinsman [relative] of Naomi’s late husband Elimelech. He notices Ruth and the care she gives to Naomi, and redeems her according to the culture of their time.

So Boaz took Ruth to be his wife and she bares him a baby boy. The ladies of the city have lots to say to Naomi!! “And the women said unto Naomi, blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter-in-law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.” Ruth 4:14-15

Naomi complaining so bitterly over her problems, saying: **“I am empty!”**
“No Future!” **“No more joy!”** **“Nothing to live for!”** **“Just waiting to die!”** All
the while, loved by the girl standing at her side! The one who would give
her Obed, the Grandfather of King David: And Ruth, herself, a Moabite
would be his Great Grandmother- in the line of Jesus Christ!!!

It's November- Thanksgiving Season. I beg of you, regardless of the
problems, afflictions or grief, look to the LORD! We do not know the end of
this picture, **but**

We do know He loves us, and has promised to care for us, AND has told us
He will give us the desires of our heart.

“Behold, happy is the man whom God corrected: therefore despise not
thou the chastening of the Almighty!”

This year count your blessings instead of your problems and see how good
the Lord is! Have a Blessed Thanksgiving Season as you walk with Him!

Rev. J. Kehl Golding Nov. 2009 www.momentswithmary.org
mmako1968@msn.com



“ABUNDANT PEACE”

By Mary Mayko

Psalm 37:7 LB “Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for him to act. Don’t be envious of evil men who prosper.”

The Lord has promised abundant peace to those who walk humbly before Him and serve Him with their whole heart. While we know we have peace *with God*, there are times our *peace of God* becomes disturbed when some one is hateful with us, they misunderstand us, or we are upset over an important issue. We naturally try to defend ourselves as that is an inborn instinct! Self preservation or even pride can rise up quickly if we are not alert and we can act or say something in a foolish way.

Can we hold our thoughts and tongue in check long enough for God’s peace to calm us down or do we promptly rebuff our accuser? If we have walked with the Lord for awhile, the Fruit of the Spirit should become evident in our relations with others. The Fruit of the Spirit is described in Gal.5:22 with a portion of that being peace! *How we long to please the Lord with all our heart!* When we fail, we grieve and sometimes berate ourselves! We need to remember that every day we must *crucify our flesh!* That isn’t easy for most of us! That means we have to humble ourselves!

Ps.37:11 LB “But all who humble themselves before the Lord shall be given every blessing and shall have wonderful peace.”

Ps.39:1 KJV “I said I will take heed to my ways that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.”

Ps.37:34b LB “Don’t be impatient for the Lord to act! Keep traveling steadily along His pathway and in due season He will honor you with every blessing.” V37 KJV “Mark the perfect (mature/blameless) man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.”

How easy it is for us to grieve over mistreatment or some injustice and lay awake for hours at night planning what we’d like to say or do! We often *replay* the incident over in our mind so much we can’t seem to focus our attention back on the Lord or His Word! When we are in such a state we really do not feel very spiritual! During times such as this, we need to force our thoughts on some scriptures we have memorized. The 23rd Psalm is one many people memorized as a child and can be the point of *rescue* for us if we will meditate on the words!

Quietly reflect on one verse at a time, saying each word slowly and deliberately! David was a man who went through many attacks against him mentally, physically and emotionally! He wrote this Psalm that encourages our hearts from his deep

Personal experiences in life! God’s Word is designed to bring peace, abundant peace to the hearts of His children! Listen to Jesus’ words in John 14:27 LB “I am leaving you with a gift- peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn’t fragile like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

When David’s life was being threatened by his own son Absalom, he wrote Psalm 3. It helps some people to be able to write their thoughts down in a journal or diary. By looking honestly at your own words, we can sometimes pray more effectively for our needs! It can be helpful to use some of the Psalms for guidelines in recording your thoughts and prayers. [Ps.3:1-5]

While the Bible does not promise that every one and every thing around us will be peaceful, it does promise that *the peace of God* is available in spite of the turmoil that may swirl about you!

“Dear Lord! Thank you for your promise of abundant peace and rest! How gracious you are to grant us the gift of peace for our hearts and minds! We praise you for your love and your care for us. When our minds and spirits are overwhelmed, help us turn to you for that peace! Amen.”

Mary Mayko

Website: www.momentswithmary.org

Email: mmako1968@msn.com