

THANKSGIVING DAY!

By Rev. J. K. 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 thee.”

Psalms 68:19 “Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.” Selah



Currently there is a commercial on TV that says “October belongs to baseball. Never mind the crisp cool breezes, the beautiful blue sky, the lovely color of the leaves or the bountiful harvest, **BASEBALL** is the thing!”

If all this is true, November belongs to football, Santa’s arrival, and bellies stuffed with turkey, followed by commercials on how to lose those holiday pounds!

There’s no doubt about it! November belongs to Thanksgiving Day. The question is how do we celebrate it? Is it just a day of eating, football and Santa’s arrival in the parade? Is it really the ushering in of the buying frenzy for Christmas?

Our Forefathers declared it to be a Day of Thanksgiving to God for all His benefits—their families, their homes, the harvest, and their health and FREEDOM TO WORSHIP!

If we allow the media to have it’s way, we would cease to have a Day of Thanksgiving to our God! We are at a crossroad in our Nation, with many young people (as well as older folks!) wondering, “What do we believe?” “How do we make our faith heard?”

In the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses beheld a new generation of Israelites. The former generation had died in the Wilderness due to unbelief. Now these folks were getting ready to enter the Promised Land. In this new era, it was important they remember all that God had told them, that they might live a blessed and prosperous life, reflecting His love and goodness.

I cannot write it as eloquently as Moses; so I give you that which he reminded these folks of.

“All the commandment which I commanded thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which Jehovah swore unto your fathers, and ye shalt remember all the way which Jehovah thy God hath led thee---For Jehovah thy God bringeth thee unto a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys, and hills, a land of wheat

and barley, and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig copper. **AND THOU SHALT EAT AND BE FULL, AND THOU SHALT BLESS JEHOVAH THY GOD FOR THE GOOD LAND WHICH HE HATH GIVEN THEE. BEWARE, LEST THOU FORGET JEHOVAH THY GOD, IN NOT KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS, and His ordinances, and His statutes, which I command thee this day; lest, when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; and when thy herds, and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied; and all thou hast is multiplied; THEN THY HEART BE LIFTED UP, AND THOU FORGET JEHOVAH THY GOD, who brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bandage; who led thee through the great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and the thirsty ground where was no water out of the rock of flint, who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not; that He might humble thee, and that He might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end: AND LEST THOU SAY IN THY HEART, MY POWER AND THE MIGHT OF MY HAND HATH GOTTEN ME THIS WEALTH. BUT THOU SHALT REMEMBER JEHOVAH THY GOD, FOR IT IS HE THAT GIVETH THEE POWER TO GET WEALTH; THAT HE MAY ESTABLISH HIS COVENANT WHICH HE SWORE UNTO THY FATHERS, AS AT THIS DAY. AND IT SHALL BE, IF THOU SHALT FORGET JEHOVAH THY GOD, AND WALK AFTER OTHER GODS, AND SERVE THEM, AND WORSHIP THEM, I TESTIFY AGAINST YOU THIS DAY THAT YE SHALL SURELY PERISH!" Deut. 8:1-2a, 7-19 A.S.V.**

America was founded on the Judean-Christian faith. Jehovah is God. Jesus Christ, His Son shed His blood on Calvary for our sins. He is the ONE and ONLT SAVIOR! Only He brings us to God our Father! Enabling us to say with the Psalmist

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our Salvation." Selah Ps.68"19

Have a blessed Thanksgiving Day as you walk with Him! Rev. J. Kehl Golding

“JOY IN FORGIVENESS”

By Mary Mayko

Psalm 32:1 LB “What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record.” V.6 “Now I say that each believer should confess his sins to God when he is aware of them, while there is time to be forgiven. Judgment will not touch him if he does.”

The joy of forgiveness is evident in Psalm 32 as David repents before God, and then makes his public confession in the Assembly of the people at the Tabernacle. Public sin requires public confession! It seems the more “*public*” a person is the harder and longer it takes to gain the courage needed to make their confession before others! It takes wisdom to handle these matters properly. Seek God first, and if needed, a trusted counselor!

David offered thanksgiving to God for His forgiveness! Sometimes we suffer the *results* of a sin although we have been forgiven. David and his family went through difficult days due to his sin, yet accepted God’s forgiveness as a gift of grace! When the prophet Nathan confronted David, God was offering an opportunity to David for relief and peace of mind.

For many people, truly understanding and receiving forgiveness with joy seems beyond them! Knowing God is aware of our every thought and deed and knows if we have truly repented of any known sin should encourage us to confess before Him. He delights to forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness!

David spent several miserable months after his sin with Bath-sheba. He was guilty of her husband Uriah’s death! Adultery and murder! Yet, this man after God’s own heart did that! No wonder he was miserable! What are *we* guilty of? Is God willing to forgive us if we repent and confess? Absolutely! How amazing that we would be declared completely forgiven and receive a clean record! Praise the LORD!

We must stand on God’s Word when we have obeyed what He requires! Trust Him! He will always keep His promises! The work of the Holy Spirit will bring us comfort and peace! David reminded himself of his failures, but also the joys of being forgiven! As we praise God for our own forgiveness, it drives away doubts and fears. Rejoice in the LORD!

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“REPENTANT & REVERENT”

By Mary Mayko

Luke 7:38KJV “And she 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.”

When this lowly sinner woman enters the house, she does not feel worthy to stand before Jesus! She stands behind him, and then kneels at his feet. NOTE: We will only kneel or bow to someone who is greater in some way, whether it be Rank, Position, Royalty, etc. In American Society, we do not bow to each other, but we shake hands, wave or express a greeting of some kind!



In loving lowliness, she sheds many tears of mixed emotions! Tears of repentance, remorse for her many sins! Tears of awe in the Presence of this Master who has the power to forgive sins, to raise the dead, to deliver people from demonic oppression, to heal the sick and afflicted in body or mind! What an act of courage! She entered a home uninvited, she knelt at the Master's feet, and yet no one has told her to leave! She is on her knees before the Savior, and no other thought seems to distract her from the purpose she came for!

Weeping in the Bible usually refers to loud expressions of sorrow or mourning. Very intense crying! This woman was more than sorry over her many sins. She desperately desired forgiveness! She came with a humble spirit! No arrogance, only reverence!

Weeping! There are enough tears flowing from her eyes to wash Jesus feet! We sometimes hear the expression, “she cried a river!” In our minds' eye, we can see these tears streaming freely down her face as she bows her head low over his dirty feet! Each tear makes a clean streak as it runs quickly from his ankles to his toes! Enough drops of water to soak his feet completely!

In loving lowliness this woman then wipes the feet of Jesus with her hair! It seems she brought everything she needed with the exception of a towel! Her soft hair would do just fine! Evidently, she gave no thought as how she would appear to others! She then kisses the feet of Jesus! That is one of the highest expressions of devotion and love! There is no dignity in kissing feet! How many feet have you kissed lately? (Babies don't count in this question, for most of us have done that freely! We are talking about dirty adult feet!)

She ignores the glaring looks of the Pharisee Simon! She is totally focused on honoring Jesus! She anoints or applies her expensive ointment to Jesus' feet! The perfume filled the room! The fragrance penetrates her own clothing and hair and she bows over him! When we reverence the Lord, when we honor Jesus, when we glorify his Holy Name, there is a sweetness that fills our own soul, one that others become aware of in our presence! We don't have to tell anyone we have it, it is quite apparent! (Acts 4:13) When we get near Jesus, his sweet spirit changes us from the inside out!

Many people feel sorry about the wrongs in their lives without becoming repentant! When we come to the LORD to ask for forgiveness, do we come with such a humble heart as this woman did? What kind of effort do we make to be near Jesus and honor Him with our attitude? Do others seem to sense there is something different about you when you have spent time with Him?

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