

New Life Christian Fellowship

As autumn falls we think of harvest. Soaring global food prices make it even more appropriate to give thanks for all we have, whilst helping and praying for those who do not have.

“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good” (Psalm 107). What a difference “Thank you” makes.

Jesus sets an example. A huge crowd spent all day listening to Jesus’ teaching, the disciples wanted to send them away to get food. Jesus said “You feed them.”

“But we only have 5 loaves and 2 fish!” they replied.

When we are in impossible situations what should we do first?

This is what Jesus did: “he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.”

Jesus gave thanks first, acknowledging the power and generosity of God. “Then he gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.” (Mathew 14)

Is being thankful something we have to learn? It does not appear that Adam and Eve said thank you in the beginning. When Jesus healed ten men of leprosy, only one said thank you. Are we complacent, taking for granted what we have; spoilt!

Circumstances can be so hard, we want to give up. It is then we need the rock, Jesus, to keep us afloat. Daniel’s life was literally on the line. (Daniel 2) The tyrannical King had been suffering bad dreams that no one could interoperate. He announced a death penalty on his advisors, including Daniel.

Daniel prayed. God answered. Daniel responded with thanks: “Let the name of God be praised forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to him...For you have enabled me to understand the king’s dilemma.”

The bible says “give thanks in all circumstances”. This is tough! Be encouraged because “in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Praise and rejoicing can be a remedy: Philippians 4:4 says “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ... The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Whether we travel a straight road, a mountain or valley, God will provide and meet our needs. Have faith, stand firm and keep a heart of thankfulness today.

New Life Christian Fellowship meet at Kilgetty Community Centre, 10.45am  
Sundays, all welcome. Call 01834 831533 / 07827293781 if you want to talk  
or would like us to pray.