

A Personal Invitation
to a Thanksgiving
Celebration

**The Pilgrim Fathers:
Landed at Plymouth Rock
November 21, 1620**





On November 21, 1620 the Mayflower landed at Plymouth, N.E. after a hazardous voyage across the north Atlantic. Their hardships were just beginning. 102 passengers landed on the rocky shore to face the bitter winter with no shelter and very little food. They were forced to lie on bare ground without cover in the extremity of winter. 40 died that first winter and 6 more the following summer. Even with half their number dead the survivors were thankful for their new life in a new land. On the first anniversary of their arrival they held a three-day thanksgiving feast. They “gave thanks for freedom, survival, food, friendly Indians and a hopeful future.”

The First Thanksgiving

November 21, 1621



On that first anniversary one pilgrim wrote a letter to his cousin in England, "... the country very pleasant and temperate, yielding naturally of itself great store of fruites ... Better grain cannot be than the Indian corne ... We are all free-holders, the rent day doth not trouble us; and all those good blessings we have, of which and what we list in their seasons for the taking. Our companie are for the most part very religious honest people; the word of God sincerely taught us every Sabbath: so that I know not any thing a contented mind can here want. I desire your friendly care to send my wife and children to me, where I wish all the friends I have in England, and so I rest, Your loving kinsman, **WILLIAM HILTON, December 13, 1621**

A Personal Invitation
to a Thanksgiving
Celebration
Psalm 34

*Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together.*

Psalm 34:3

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*

Psalm 34:8

An unlikely time and place to give thanks!

Psalm 34

A Psalm of David When He Pretended Madness Before Abimelech, Who Drove Him Away, and He Departed.

*I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Psalm 34:1

**Giving thanks to God is:
the result of a commitment we make,
not the conditions we find ourselves in**

**Giving thanks to God is:
a consistent attitude and activity,
not an occasional blessing we celebrate**

*I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Psalm 34:1

**Giving thanks to God is:
the result of a choice we make,
not determined by the company we keep**

My soul shall make its boast in the LORD;

The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

And let us exalt His name together.

Psalm 34:2-3

**Giving thanks to God is:
the result of looking up to God,
not looking at the world around us**

*I sought the LORD, and He heard me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces were not ashamed.*

Psalm 34:4-5

**Giving thanks to God is:
the exercise of our faith
not the outcome of our feelings**

*This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him
And saved him out of all his troubles.*

*The angel of the LORD encamps all around
those who fear Him, and delivers them.*

Psalm 34:6-7

**Giving thanks to God is:
contagious, it is inviting to others
*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!***

*Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!
There is no want to those who fear Him.
The young lions lack and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the LORD
shall not lack any good thing.*

Psalm 34:8-10

David's Instructions:
How to Have a
Thankful Heart
Psalm 34

How to Have a Thankful Heart

1. Choose to be thankful

*Come, you children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*

Psalm 34:11

How to Have a Thankful Heart

2. Do an attitude check

*Who is the man who desires life
And loves many days, that he may see good?*

Psalm 34:12

How to Have a Thankful Heart

3. Take action, words & works matter

Keep your tongue from evil,

And your lips from speaking deceit.

Depart from evil and do good;

Seek peace and pursue it.

Psalm 34:13-14

How to Have a Thankful Heart

4. Take inventory of things to be thankful for

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

And His ears are open to their cry.

*The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.*

Psalm 34:15-16

How to Have a Thankful Heart

4. Take inventory of things to be thankful for

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears

And delivers them out of all their troubles.

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart

And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Psalm 34:17-19

Above All!

5. Remember the Savior who redeemed us!

He guards all his bones;

Not one of them is broken.

Evil shall slay the wicked,

And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.

The Lord redeems the soul of His servants,

And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

Psalm 34:20-22

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

John 19:31-37

How to Have a Thankful Heart

6. Include thanksgiving in every prayer

*I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Psalm 34:1

We are invited to join the pilgrims



In celebrating a heartfelt Thanksgiving