

Pastor Dan Barfell | 11.20.11  
Thanksgiving Sunday

# How To Cultivate A Thankful Heart

## Introduction:

- We all have a lot for which to be thankful. We don't have to think very hard to come up with a myriad of things for which we can give thanks. But as Abraham Lincoln said in 1863, "We have forgotten God."
- The Pilgrims endured extreme hardship their first few months here in the "New World", yet they thanked the Lord every day.
- Whether in times of plenty or times of want, we must never "forget God." So how can we develop a grateful heart? This morning, we will discover two ways to cultivate a spirit of thanksgiving.

## 1. Remind yourself of your constant \_\_\_\_\_ on God.

*Not until we realize that there is nothing we possess – big or small – that we have not been given by the gracious Hand of the Lord, will we begin to thank Him.*

Charles Stanley

I Kings 17 – Elijah

Our dependence [need] must drive us to our knees. And when we begin to see the many ways our Heavenly Father answers our prayer, provides and comes through, we become more and more thankful all the time.

## 2. Look for God's purpose in every \_\_\_\_\_.

*This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.*

Jeremiah 29:4 (emphasis added)

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*You are where you are because  
God wants you there.*

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*In his heart a man plans his course; but the LORD determines his steps.*  
Proverbs 16:9

*You meant it for evil; but God meant it for good.*  
Genesis 50:20

## Conclusion:

At their lowest point, the Pilgrims were reduced to a daily ration of five kernels of corn apiece. But legend has it that on the second Thanksgiving, the first course, served on an empty plate in front of each person, consisted of five kernels of corn to remind them of God's faithful provision for them.

Let the lean times of yesterday be a reminder to \_\_\_\_\_  
today!