

November 21, 2021

Five Kernels of Corn-Thanksgiving Psalms 103:1-5

The following message is adapted from by Bruce Howell

http://www.sermoncentral.com/print_friendly.asp?ContributorID=&SermonID=40908

The Pilgrim fathers who landed at Plymouth Rock over 300 years ago knew nothing of the affluent times which you and I enjoy today in this great country of ours.

The next time you and I are tempted to complain about inflation and the state of our economy, remember the following:

...During that first long winter at Plymouth Colony, seven times as many graves were made for the dead as home for the living.

...The ship which was to bring food and relief brought 35 more mouths to feed, but not an ounce of provisions.

...Touching indeed is the picture of William Brewster, rising from a scanty Plymouth dinner, consisting of a plate of clams and a glass of cold water, to thank God “for the abundance of the sea and the treasures hid in the sand.”

...The Pilgrims didn’t have much, but they possessed a great gratitude and it was upon this very thing that America was built. These stalwart people, strong, devout and sincere were the timbers upon which our nation was founded.

They had a custom of putting 5 kernels of corn upon each empty plate before a dinner of “thanksgiving” was served. Each member of the family would pick up a kernel and tell what they were thankful for. It was to remind them that the first Pilgrims were in such dire straits that their allowance was only 5 kernels of corn per person each day.

<https://happyhomefairy.com/thanksgiving-tradition-the-5-kernels-of-corn/>

1. The first kernel reminds us that God loves us.
2. The second kernel reminds us that God provides for all our needs.
3. The third kernel reminds us of the friends God has given us — just as the American Indians were friends to the pilgrims.
4. The fourth kernel reminds us of all the people God has given us who love us.
5. And the fifth kernel reminds us that God hears our prayers and answers us.

<https://www.makeitgrateful.com/living/celebrate/thanksgiving/kids-lesson-legend-five-kernels/>

1. The first kernel reminds us of the autumn beauty all around us.
2. The second kernel reminds us of our love for one another.
3. The third kernel reminds us of God’s love and care for us.
4. The fourth kernel reminds us of all our friends, especially our Indian brothers.
5. The fifth kernel reminds us that we are a free people.

Kids plate of Corn

Hymn Chorus: Count Your Blessings. Johnson Oatman

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

The Key element is one of thanksgiving for all things.

Ephesians 5:20...Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18... *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

If we are honest without ourselves we must acknowledge that there are a lot of sad and awful things in this world. Sometimes it might be hard to be thankful, but we must be intentional and make a choice to be thankful.

Ten Blessings to Count

**Thank You God for Being an Awesome, Powerful God.
Thank You God for Your Son Jesus and forgiveness
of our sin.**

Thank You God for Your Holy Spirit living in me.

Thank You God for hearing our prayers

Thank You God for the Hope & Joy we have in You

Thank You God for Your Love and Peace

Thank You God for the Freedoms we have

Thank You God for family, friends, a Church

Thank You God for the earth and all it's resources

Thank You for the promise of Eternal Life

Let's take 5 grains of corn and using Psalm 103:1-5 as a basis, think of 5 things to praise God for.

Ps. 103:1-5... *Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name. ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all of His benefits; ³ Who forgives all your sins, Who heals all your diseases; ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; ⁵ Who satisfies you with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.*

1. The Kernel of Forgiveness

Verse 3a: "...who forgives all your sins..."

"This forgiveness is a...

- ♣ Promise of the Father
- ♣ Provision of the Son
- ♣ Proclamation in the Bible
- ♣ Practice required in the church

From the depths of our hearts, a sense of gratitude should well up. Gratitude should ascend like incense to the throne of God". (Bruce Howell)

In **Luke 15:11-32**... We read the ultimate story of forgiveness where the prodigal son is forgiven and welcomed back home.

Do you remember the thief on the cross? **Mark 15 & Luke 23** record of the forgiveness offered by Jesus as He was dying on the cross.

2. The Kernel of Healing

Verse 3b: "...who heals all your diseases..."

"three important truths contained in this verse.

- a. All healing is divine healing and all recovery from sickness, injury and surgery is the result of the healing properties that God has built into our bodies. Medicine, surgery and therapy are merely extensions of God's healing ministry.
- b. This verse doesn't say that God heals everyone's diseases, but that He heals all diseases. There is no disease or sickness

that lies beyond His healing power—not even what we call “incurable.” He is the Great Physician.

c. The diseases of the soul emanate from the virus of sin. Jesus identified this virus and its symptoms and disorders in **Matt 15:19-20**: ***“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man unclean.”***

Just as surely as some disorders of the body can be cured by medicines and surgery, so the soul of man can be cleansed, purged and purified—and made whole when God the Holy Spirit is allowed to possess us completely”. (Bruce Howell)

3. The Kernel of Redemption

Verse 4a: “...*who redeems your life from destruction...*”

Redeem, Redemption

Finding its context in the social, legal, and religious customs of the ancient world, the metaphor of redemption includes the ideas of loosing from a bond, setting free from captivity or slavery, buying back something lost or sold, exchanging something in one's possession for something possessed by another, and ransoming.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/redeem-redemption/>

Illustration: “Former Governor Neff, of Texas, spoke to the assembled convicts of penitentiaries of that state. He finished by saying that he would remain to listen if any man wanted to speak with him. When the meeting was over, a large group of men remained, many of them lifers. One by one they each told the governor that he was there through a frame-up, and injustice, or a judicial blunder. Each asked to be freed. Finally, one man came up and said, “Governor, I just want to

say that I’m guilty. I did what they sent me here for, but I believe I’ve paid for it..... (If I were freed...) If I were freed, I would do everything I could to be a good citizen and prove myself worthy of your mercy.” The governor pardoned this man. Why? Because he admitted his guilt. So it is with us if we are to be redeemed from the awful sentence we’re under. But there is a difference. We can’t say that we’ve paid for any of it because as the old hymn says, ***“Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin has left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.”***

If we will plead His blood, God will redeem us. The Lord not only our souls from hell, but He also redeems our lives from the clutches of the devil. Satan is bent on damning our souls and destroying our lives. But thanks be to God who redeems our lives from his power”. Bruce Howell

Psalm 40:2,3... ***“He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD”***

4. The Kernel of Loving Kindness and Compassion

Verse 4b: “...*Who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion...*”

Titus 3:4-6...***But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,***

➤ UNDESERVING MEPHIBOSHETH

<https://www.churchtechtoday.com/3-great-sermon-illustrations-on-gods-love/>

Story From Jack Wellman.

“When David became king over all Israel, he inquired if there were any left of Saul’s house or family by saying: ***Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake***” (2 Sam 9:1)? Normally, this would be bad news for the former king’s family because the new customarily killed all remaining relatives to remove the threat of any of his heirs from retaking the throne or stirring up trouble in the kingdom but David didn’t operate that way.

Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. ***And David said, ‘Mephibosheth!’ And he answered, ‘Behold, I am your servant.’ And David said to him, ‘Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always.’ And he paid homage and said, ‘What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I’***” (2 Sam 9:5-8)?

Notice the humility of Mephibosheth. In one of the kindest acts in all of Israel’s history, David said:

All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master’s grandson. And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master’s grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master’s grandson shall always eat at my table” (2 Sam 9:9b-10).

What a picture of the loving kindness and compassion of God. We are all helplessly crippled by sin. We must humble

ourselves before our king as Mephibosheth did before David. Mephibosheth, Saul’s grandson, who for years relentlessly pursued and tried to kill David was provided for and placed at the king’s table as David graciously said he “shall always eat at my table.”

Mephibosheth was treated like the king’s son, he was accepted graciously at the king’s table, he was able to be in the king’s presence, and he was able to be provided with all that he needed for the rest of his life even though he was helpless to do anything else. Mephibosheth couldn’t even provide for his own living. Wasn’t that us before we were saved? Now, we can dine at the Lord’s Table, someday at the great marriage feast with the King of kings, and we will forever abide with Him, even though helpless, cripples (by sin) who could never survive in our own strength or by our own means. When I read about Mephibosheth I think of his name as “me”-phibosheth.” (Jack Wellman. <https://www.churchtechtoday.com/3-great-sermon-illustrations-on-gods-love/>)

5.The Kernel of Satisfaction and Renewal

Verse 5: “...***who satisfies you with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.***”

“When we seek God’s righteousness, He grants it.

A famous surgeon was seldom seen on the streets without a beautiful, fresh rose in his lapel. His friends wondered why these buds stayed fresh for so long a time. When they asked him his secret, he turned back the flap of his coat and revealed a little bottle of water into which the stem of the flower had been inserted. So it is with believers. If our lives draw from the great resources of the Lord Jesus, who is in us the Water of Life, we will grow more fragrant and beautiful as the days and years go by. But that’s not the end. Verse 5

also says that God will renew my youth like the eagle's. The eagle is known for its size, strength, longevity & its annual molting) This is the result of living a fulfilled, satisfied, spiritual life. I am constantly being renewed, refreshed, and revived in my soul and God is doing it all! No wonder then that the Psalmist said, "***Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!***" As you sit down to your Thanksgiving meal Thursday, take time to thank God for these blessings—these five kernels". Adapted from Bruce Howell

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**Today is the day to choose to begin a lie of Counting
Your Blessings**