MESSAGE NOTES **11.22.26**

THANKSGIVING IS MORE THAN A HOLIDAY

"[5]Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, 'Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?' [6]He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. [7]Philip replied, 'Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!' [8]Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. [9]'There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?' [10]'Tell everyone to sit down,' Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) [11]Then Jesus took the loaves, **gave thanks to God**, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. [12]After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, 'Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.' [13]So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves." JOHN 6:5-13, NLT

1. **When you're in a tough spot (vv. 5-7), don't _____**

   "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." ISA 41:10

   "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." PHIL 4:6-7

2. **Life is better when it's done _____ (vv. 6-7)**

   "A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." ECCL 4:12

   "And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had." ACTS 2:44

3. **Look for God's _____ – sometimes it shows up in surprising places (vv. 8-9)**

   "Your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" MAT 5:8

   "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus." PHIL 4:19

4. **Give _____ to God for what you have (v. 11)**

   "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever." 1 CHRON 16:34 (plus many others)

   "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." 1 THESS 5:18

5. **Gratitude has _____ power (vv. 11-12)**

   - To transform your perception of life
   - To improve your mental and physical health
   - To strengthen your relationships with God and others
   - To deepen your joy and contentment

   "Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God." 2 COR 9:11

6. **Don't _____ God's blessings (v. 12-13)**

   "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." LUKE 6:38

   "Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father." JAS 1:17

7. **Gratitude acts as a _____ to experiencing God's blessings**

   - Recognizing and thanking God for His blessings _____ your faith
   - Expressing gratitude _____ your relationship with God and others
   - A grateful heart _____ a joyful life
   - An attitude of gratitude _____ you for the better