

November 26, 2005

PROPHETIC TOPIC

I THANK GOD FOR THIS

FORMAT

OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCE GUEST

LOVE AND LIGHT, I'M REV. PHIL AND I'M YOUR HOST FOR "WORDS OF THE PROPHETS." THIS MORNING IS MY 7TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING THANKFULNESS AND GRATITUDE SHOW AND CO-HOSTING WITH ME IS MY WIFE LINDA. YOU, THE LISTENING AUDIENCE, ARE INVITED TO SHARE YOUR THANKFULNESS AND GRATITUDE WITH US. OUR TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 428-1382. TODAY'S PROPHETIC TOPIC IS "I THANK GOD FOR THIS". THIS TOPIC IS FROM EMMET FOX'S "AROUND THE YEAR" DAILY MEDITATION BOOK. THE MEDITATION READS AS FOLLOWS:

"GOD KNOWS ME, AND LOVES ME, AND CARES FOR ME. I AM JUST AS DEAR TO HIM AS ANY HUMAN BEING WHO HAS EVER LIVED. GOD HAS EVERY QUALITY OF PERSONALITY EXCEPT LIMITATION. HE CAN BE TO ME ANYTHING THAT ANY HUMAN BEING COULD BE, AND INFINITELY MORE. IN TRUTH AND REALITY NOTHING CAN EVER TOUCH ME BUT THE DIRECT ACTION OF GOD HIMSELF, AND GOD IS LOVE. THERE IS NO PROBLEM BIGGER THAN GOD. NO DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER SEEMINGLY GRAVE, CAN COME INTO MY LIFE, THAT GOD CANNOT COMPLETELY WIPE OUT. GOD IS CONTINUALLY INSTRUCTING ME, AND IN SOME GOOD WAY HE WILL NOW CLEARLY SHOW ME THE NEXT

IMPORTANT STEP IN MY LIFE – AND HOW TO TAKE THAT STEP. THE WILL OF GOD FOR ME IS PEACE OF MIND, TRUE PLACE, HAPPINESS, JOYOUS ACTIVITY, AND UNBROKEN PROGRESS. I THANK GOD FOR THIS.”

BEFORE LINDA AND I GET STARTED WITH OUR DISCUSSION LET ME REMIND THAT THE TELEPHONE LINES ARE OPEN FOR YOU SO THAT YOU CAN SHARE YOUR THANKFULNESS AND GRATITUDE WITH OUR LISTENING AUDIENCE. OUR TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 428-1382.

1. THANK AUDIENCE, STATION SUPPORT & GUESTS
STATION SUPPORT

- 1. NORTHERN NEW MEXICO RADIO FOUNDATION**
- 2. DAL DEARMIN**
- 3. MICKEY BROWN**
- 4. TIM PEMBERTON**
- 5. SEAN CONLON**

FOURTH YEAR’S GUESTS

- 1. LINDA MILLER**
- 2. ANNETTE STROM**
- 3. ROBERT ARCHULETTA**
- 4. SADHU SINGH KHALSA**
- 5. ROBERT RANSOM ODOM**
- 6. RUTH HOFFMAN**
- 7. REV. DR. HOLLY BEAUMONT**
- 8. KATHLEEN MACRAE**
- 9. NANCY HEWITT**
- 10. PAUL MANNICK**
- 11. MARY ELLEN CAPEK**
- 12. DAVID REIS**

13. CHRIS GOLDSTEIN
14. REV. JOHN MONROE-CASSEL
15. JOANNE WATERS
16. CAMILLE ADAIR-NORWICK
17. RHONDA AVIDON
18. PETER PIERCE
19. DR. HERBERT BENSON
20. MERIT BENNETT
21. PROFESSOR BEN BARAN
22. SANKARA SARANAM
23. TOM CALDWELL
24. REV. BERNARDO MONSERRAT
25. YOGIRAJ GURUNATH SIDDHANATH
26. PENNY RUSSELL
27. VIRGINIA WISEMAN

SAYINGS

TO SPEAK GRATITUDE IS COURTEOUS AND PLEASANT, TO ENACT GRATITUDE IS GENEROUS AND NOBLE, BUT TO LIVE GRATITUDE IS TO TOUCH HEAVEN.

JOHANNES A. GAERTNER

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS TO LIVE YOUR LIFE. ONE IS AS THOUGH NOTHING IS A MIRACLE. THE OTHER IS AS THOUGH EVERYTHING IS A MIRACLE.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

WHEN ASKED IF MY CUP IS HALF-FULL OR HALF-EMPTY MY ONLY RESPONSE IS THAT I AM THANKFUL I HAVE A CUP.

SAM LEFKOWITZ

IN OUR DAILY LIVES, WE MUST SEE THAT IT IS NOT HAPPINESS THAT MAKES US GRATEFUL, BUT THE GRATEFULNESS THAT MAKES US HAPPY.

ALBERT CLARKE

TO EDUCATE YOURSELF FOR THE FEELING OF GRATITUDE MEANS TO TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED, BUT TO ALWAYS SEEK OUT AND VALUE THE KIND THAT WILL STAND BEHIND THE ACTION. NOTHING THAT IS DONE FOR YOU IS A MATTER OF COURSE. EVERYTHING ORIGINATES IN A WILL FOR THE GOOD, WHICH IS DIRECTED AT YOU. TRAIN YOURSELF NEVER TO PUT OFF THE WORD OR ACTION FOR THE EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

GRATITUDE IS NOT ONLY THE GREATEST OF VIRTUES, BUT THE PARENT OF ALL THE OTHERS.

CICERO

I ASKED FOR STRENGTH THAT I MIGHT ACHIEVE; I WAS MADE WEAK THAT I MIGHT LEARN HUMBLY TO OBEY. I ASKED FOR HEALTH THAT I MIGHT DO GREATER THINGS; I WAS GIVEN INFIRMITY THAT I MIGHT DO BETTER THINGS. I ASKED FOR RICHES THAT I MIGHT BE HAPPY; I WAS GIVEN POVERTY THAT I MIGHT BE WISE. I ASKED FOR POWER THAT I MIGHT HAVE THE PRAISE OF MEN; I WAS GIVEN WEAKNESS THAT I MIGHT FEEL THE NEED OF GOD. I ASKED FOR ALL THINGS THAT I MIGHT ENJOY LIFE; I WAS GIVEN LIFE THAT I MIGHT ENJOY ALL THINGS. I GOT NOTHING THAT I HAD ASKED FOR, BUT EVERYTHING THAT I HAD HOPED FOR. ALMOST DESPITE MYSELF MY UNSPOKEN PRAYERS WERE

ANSWERED; I AM, AMONG ALL MEN, MOST RICHLY BLESSED.

PRAYER OF AN UNKNOWN CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

NONE IS MORE IMPOVERISHED THAN THE ONE WHO HAS NO GRATITUDE. GRATITUDE IS A CURRENCY THAT WE CAN MINT FOR OURSELVES, AND SPEND WITHOUT FEAR OF BANKRUPTCY.

FRED DE WITT VAN AMBURGH

THANKFULNESS IS THE BEGINNING OF GRATITUDE. GRATITUDE IS THE COMPLETION OF THANKFULNESS. THANKFULNESS MAY CONSIST MERELY OF WORDS. GRATITUDE IS SHOWN IN ACTS.

HENRI FREDERIC AMIEL

PRAYER IS A RELATIONSHIP. SO NOW MY PRAYER LIFE CAN PRETTY MUCH BE REDUCED TO FOUR STATEMENTS OF TWO WORDS EACH – JUST EIGHT SHORT WORDS, OR ELABORATIONS OF THEM: "THANK YOU." "I'M SORRY." "HELP ME." AND "WHAT'S NEXT?" FIRST: "THANK YOU." SIMPLE GRATITUDE, SPONTANEOUS THANKFULNESS, IS THE MOST BASIC RELIGIOUS IMPULSE – IT CONNECTS US WITH ALL OTHERS AS WELL AS WITH GOD.

REV. DR. MARILYN SEWELL

MAY NONE OF YOUR HUMAN CHILDREN DOUBT OR QUESTION YOUR WISDOM, GRACE, AND SENSE OF WHOLENESS IN GIVING ALL OF CREATION A RIGHT TO BE LIVING EXTENSIONS OF YOUR PERFECT LOVE.

A NATIVE AMERICAN THANKSGIVING PRAYER

GRATITUDE UNLOCKS THE FULLNESS OF LIFE. GRATITUDE MAKES THINGS RIGHT. IT TURNS WHAT

WE HAVE INTO ENOUGH, AND MORE. IT TURNS DENIAL INTO ACCEPTANCE, CHAOS TO ORDER, CONFUSION TO CLARITY. IT CAN TURN A MEAL INTO A FEAST, A HOUSE INTO A HOME, A STRANGER INTO A FRIEND. IT TURNS PROBLEMS INTO GIFTS, FAILURES INTO SUCCESSES, THE UNEXPECTED INTO PERFECT TIMING, AND MISTAKES INTO IMPORTANT EVENTS. IT CAN TURN AN EXISTENCE INTO A REAL LIFE, AND DISCONNECTED SITUATIONS INTO IMPORTANT AND BENEFICIAL LESSONS. GRATITUDE MAKES SENSE OF OUR PAST, BRINGS PEACE FOR TODAY, AND CREATES A VISION FOR TOMORROW.

MELODY BEATTIE

ONCE, WHEN MY FEET WERE BARE, AND I HAD NOT THE MEANS OF OBTAINING SHOES I CAME TO THE CHIEF OF KUFAN IN A STATE OF MUCH DEJECTION, AND SAW THERE A MAN WHO HAD NO FEET. I RETURNED THANKS TO GOD AND ACKNOWLEDGED HIS MERCIES, AND ENDURED MY WANT OF SHOES WITH PATIENCE.

**SHEIKH SADI OF SHIRAZ
THE GULISTAN OF SA'DI**

THEREFORE I SAY UNTO YOU, WHAT THINGS SOEVER YE DESIRE, WHEN YE PRAY, BELIEVE THAT YE RECEIVE THEM, AND YE SHALL HAVE THEM.

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK
THE KING JAMES VERSION
CHAPTER 11, PARAGRAPH 24**

**CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE LIFE! CELEBRATE SELF!
CELEBRATE GOD! CELEBRATE! PLAY THE GAME.**

BRING JOY TO THE MOMENT, WHATEVER THE MOMENT SEEMS TO BRING, BECAUSE JOY IS WHO YOU ARE, AND WHO YOU WILL ALWAYS BE. GOD CANNOT CREATE ANYTHING IMPERFECT. IF YOU THINK THAT GOD CAN CREATE ANYTHING IMPERFECT, THEN YOU KNOW NOTHING OF GOD. SO CELEBRATE. CELEBRATE THE PERFECTION! SMILE AND CELEBRATE AND SEE ONLY THE PERFECTION, AND THAT WHICH OTHERS CALL THE IMPERFECTION WILL NOT TOUCH YOU IN ANY WAY WHICH IS IMPERFECT FOR YOU.

**NEALE DONALD WALSCH
CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD
AN UNCOMMON DIALOGUE, BOOK 3**

GRATITUDE IS MORE THAN JUST BEING THANKFUL. THE "PRINCIPLE" OF GRATITUDE IS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY. IF WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL, WE WILL HELP OTHERS ACHIEVE WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED. NEXT IS THE "PRIORITY" OF GRATITUDE. AS SOON AS WE KNOW THAT GOD HAS CHANGED OUR LIVES, WE MUST LET NOTHING INTERFERE WITH WHAT WE KNOW TO BE RIGHT.

THE "PROPRIETY OF GRATITUDE SHOWS US THAT OUR HIGHER POWER IS NOT A RESPECTER OF PERSONS, AND WE DESERVE ITS GRACE AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE DOES. THEN THE "PURPOSE" OF OUR GRATITUDE IS NOT ENTIRELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ONE BLESSED. THE "PURPOSE" IS TO SHED LIGHT ON THE ONE WHO BLESSED US.

DO MY ACTIONS REFLECT MY GRATITUDE?

HIGHER POWER, HELP ME ALWAYS TO REMEMBER TO BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT I HAVE BEEN BLESSED

**WITH AND LET ME FULLY UNDERSTAND THE
MAGNITUDE OF GRATITUDE.**

**DAY BY DAY DAILY MEDITATIONS
HAZELDEN PUBLICATION SECOND EDITION**

**AUTUMN EQUINOX IS THE TIME TO REFLECT UPON
LIFE. IF WE HAVE ENJOYED A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST
WE EXPRESS OUR THANKS. IF THE YEAR HAS BEEN
DIFFICULT SO FAR, THEN WE ARE HAPPY FOR WHAT
WE DO HAVE AND RESOLVE TO DO BETTER ONCE THE
CHANCE COMES. THE APPRECIATION OF LIFE DOES
NOT REQUIRE WEALTH OR PLENTY. IT REQUIRES
ONLY GRATITUDE FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD.**

DENG MING-DAO

**I WENT AT DAWN TO A MAGNIFICENT TEMPLE.
ITS ARCHITECTURE WAS SUCH A SUPREME
EXPRESSION OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT THAT IT WAS A
TREASURE. GENERATIONS OF WORSHIPPERS HAD
LEFT OFFERINGS AT THE SHRINES, HUNDREDS OF
MONKS HAD REACHED THEIR ENLIGHTENMENT ON
THE CONSECRATED GROUNDS, AND THOUSANDS
HAD BEEN BLESSED IN LIFE AND DEATH IN THE
VENERABLE HALLS.**

**YET MY MOST MOVING OBSERVATION WAS AN
OLD WOMAN SILENTLY SWEEPING THE STEPS. HER
CONCENTRATION WAS PERFECT. HER DEVOTION
WAS PALPABLE. HER THOROUGHNESS WAS
COMPLETE. HER UNCELEBRATED ACT SHOWED A
TRUE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**LATER IN THE DAY, WEALTHY PEOPLE CAME TO
WORSHIP. CHILDREN WITH BRIGHTLY COLORED
TOYS RAN OVER THE GRAY STONES. THE ABBOT**

WALKED TO HIS CEREMONIES. MONKS PASSED IN SILENT PRAYER. OF ALL WHO PASSED, HOW MANY WERE AWARE OF THE SAINTLY SERVICE THAT HAD MADE THEIR OWN DEVOTION POSSIBLE?

WHEN THE WAY IS ALL WE HAVE TO WALK, THOSE WHO PREPARE THE WAY SHOULD BE TRULY HONORED.

DENG MING-DAO

Q: BUT HOW CAN I BE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR SOMETHING I KNOW IS NOT THERE?

A: FAITH. IF YOU HAD BUT THE FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED, YOU SHALL MOVE MOUNTAINS.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN I CANNOT ASK FOR ANYTHING I WANT? ARE YOU SAYING THAT PRAYING FOR SOMETHING ACTUALLY PUSHES IT AWAY FROM US?

A: YOU WILL NOT HAVE THAT FOR WHICH YOU ASK, NOR CAN YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT. THIS IS BECAUSE YOUR VERY REQUEST IS A STATEMENT OF LACK, AND YOUR SAYING YOU WANT A THING ONLY WORKS TO PRODUCE THAT PRECISE EXPERIENCE – WANTING – IN YOUR REALITY. THE CORRECT PRAYER IS THEREFORE NEVER A PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION, BUT A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE. THANKFULNESS IS THUS THE MOST POWERFUL STATEMENT TO GOD; AN AFFIRMATION THAT EVEN BEFORE YOU ASK, I HAVE ANSWERED.

**NEALE DONALD WALSCH
CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD
AN UNCOMMON DIALOGUE, BOOK 1**

TO BE WITH GOD WONDERING, THAT IS ADORATION. TO BE WITH GOD GRATEFULLY, THAT IS THANKSGIVING. TO BE WITH GOD ASHAMED,

THAT IS CONTRITION. TO BE WITH GOD WITH PEOPLE AND THINGS WE CARE ABOUT IN OUR HEARTS, THAT IS INTERCESSION. BUT THE CENTER OF IT IN DESIRE AND IN DESIGN WILL BE THE BEING WITH GOD.

**THE LATE MICHAEL RAMSEY
FORMER ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**

E-MAILS

MICHAEL FROM CA

THANKFULNESS IS THE HEART'S MEMORY AND IS NOT ONLY THE GREATEST OF VIRTUES, BUT THE PARENT OF ALL THE OTHERS. EVERYTHING ORIGINATES IN A THANKFUL HEART. THANKFULNESS UNLOCKS THE FULLNESS OF LIFE AND TURNS WHAT WE HAVE INTO ENOUGH. IT TURNS DENIAL INTO ACCEPTANCE, CHAOS INTO ORDER, CONFUSION INTO CLARITY AND CAN TURN A MEAL INTO A FEAST, A HOUSE INTO A HOME, A STRANGER INTO A FRIEND AND CAN HEAL ALL WOUNDS. THANKFULNESS MAKES SENSE OF OUR PAST. TO ENACT THANKFULNESS IS TO TOUCH PEOPLE BUT ALSO TOUCHES HEAVEN. BEING THANKFUL IS TO BECOME THE PART OF BORN CREATION THAT FLINGS RAINBOWS OVER THE RAIN. HAPPY THANKSGIVING

MARILYN FROM NC

QUOTE BY MEISTER ECKHART: "IF THE ONLY PRAYER YOU EVER SAY IS "THANK YOU", THAT WILL SUFFICE."

SANDRA FROM SF

MY THANKFULNESS, FIRST AND FOR MOST, TO BE FREE, MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE FREE AND WELL. THIS HOLIDAY IS MY FAVORITE, THE ONLY THING TO GIVE AND RECEIVE IS THANKS! I AM THANKFUL BEYOND WORDS.

LINDA'S SAYINGS

AS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE, WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION IS NOT TO UTTER WORDS, BUT TO LIVE BY THEM.

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

THE UNTHANKFUL HEART DISCOVERS NO MERCIES; BUT LET THE THANKFUL HEART SWEEP THROUGH THE DAY AND, AS THE MAGNET FINDS THE IRON, SO IT WILL FIND, IN EVERY HOUR, SOME HEAVENLY BLESSINGS!

HENRY WARD BEECHER

IT IS LITERALLY TRUE, AS THE THANKLESS SAY, THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR. HE WHO SITS BY THE FIRE, THANKLESS FOR THE FIRE, IS JUST AS IF HE HAD NO FIRE. NOTHING IS POSSESSED SAVE IN APPRECIATION, OF WHICH THANKFULNESS IS THE INDISPENSABLE INGREDIENT. BUT A THANKFUL HEART HATH A CONTINUAL FEAST.

W. J. CAMERON

SOME PEOPLE COMPLAIN BECAUSE GOD PUT THORNS ON ROSES, WHILE OTHERS PRAISE HIM FOR PUTTING ROSES AMONG THORNS.

ANONYMOUS

YOU SAY, 'IF I HAD A LITTLE MORE, I SHOULD BE VERY SATISFIED.' YOU MAKE A MISTAKE. IF YOU ARE NOT CONTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, YOU WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED IF IT WERE DOUBLED.

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

"GRATITUDE IS NOT A SPIRITUAL OR MORAL DESSERT WHICH WE MAY TAKE OR PUSH AWAY ACCORDING TO THE WHIMS OF THE MOMENT, AND IN EITHER CASE WITHOUT MATERIAL CONSEQUENCES. GRATITUDE IS THE VERY BREAD AND MEAT OF SPIRITUAL AND MORAL HEALTH, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY. WHAT WAS THE SEED OF DISINTEGRATION THAT CORRUPTED THE HEART OF THE ANCIENT WORLD BEYOND THE POINT OF DIVINE REMEDY? WHAT WAS IT BUT INGRATITUDE?"

NOEL SMITH