

*“Give Thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever” Psalm 107:INIV*

This verse from one of the psalms points an important recurring theme for the people of Israel. Over and over again they are told to give thanks to God for all he has done. Psalm 107 is particularly interesting in that it “recaps” the deliverance of the people of Israel from the Egyptians. In other places in the Old Testament you can even read about different “memorial objects” to help them remember what God had done in delivering them from battle.

All of this came about, to strengthen their relationship with God. In times when the people of Israel rebelled from God, they “forgot the Lord” as well as what he had done.

Remembering and Thankfulness ought to be at the center of our Thanksgiving as well. Too often the day is about the meal or whatever football team will be playing later. In fact a whole new avenue of distraction from the meaning of Thanksgiving since many stores will be opening at Midnight so that shoppers can take advantage of “black Friday”

While the life of a Christian should be rooted in thanksgiving, especially for our salvation in Jesus Christ, it can be a great challenge to get to that place. So perhaps it’s good we have a national day of Thanksgiving this week because it puts the idea of remembrance and giving thanks right before us as it was for the people of Israel.

In our busy challenging society that’s a good thing. So really stop, look back at this year. Where has God helped you, or where has God blessed you? An old hymn says it best:

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done*

Pr. John Van Haneghan