

LIFE and the Bible

Love.Inspiration.Faith.Eternity



Pastor Jonathan Watson

Happy Thanksgiving!

I heard a wild story about a man in Illinois, who was reconciling his checkbook and called the bank to get his balance. The electronic voice said that there was 924 million, 844 thousand, 204 dollars and 32 cents in his checking account. Can you imagine his absolute shock when he thought he had less than \$200! It was a mistake of course. Jack was one of 826 customers who were millionaires for a day and like most of the others he simply reported the error to bank officials.

In reality all earthly wealth is just as temporary as Jack's one-day stint at being a millionaire. When we sit down to our Thanksgiving meal this month, probably few of us would mention our bank accounts on the list of things for which we are thankful. What comes first to *your* mind? For me it's loving relationships of family and friends, God's hand of protection and provision and the privilege of being the pastor of a church.

Here is a great Thanksgiving story a woman named Andrea recalled the time not long after her husband died. It was the day before Thanksgiving and the first she and her three children would spend without him. All three of the children had colds with fever so she needed to go to the store for medicine but only had \$2.50 in her purse. Then the secretary of her church called saying she had something to give her from the congregation. When Andrea went to the church office she was given two grocery certificates of \$20 each with assurances of love and prayers. Later, when she was at the store she placed a little more than \$14 worth of groceries on the counter and gave the cashier the gift certificate. The cashier asked her if she had a turkey for Thanksgiving. Andrea said that she did not. "*Go back and get a turkey, cranberry sauce, dressing, pie and anything else you need for a turkey dinner,*" the cashier told her. Andrea was moved to tears and took off to do her shopping. When she returned the lady told her, "*I prayed this morning that I could help someone today, and you walked through my line.*" The cashier paid for the groceries herself and wished Andrea a Happy Thanksgiving. Andrea was overwhelmed by God's love shown to her through her church family and a stranger. God loves each and every one of us and He cares about us.

Here's an idea for you on Thanksgiving Day - sometime before or after your Thanksgiving meal take the time to ask your family to briefly say what they are thankful for this Thanksgiving. And have everyone say something nice about someone else in the room, then have a prayer and thank God for his goodness. I believe you will find it to be a powerful spiritual experience.

God bless you and have a Happy Thanksgiving!