

Count Your Many Blessings, See What God Hath Done

(# 392 Hymns For Worship)

I. INTRODUCTION: Luke 17:11-19

A. Giving thanks comes from a heart filled with gratitude. Often we allow the distractions, the “negatives” of life to rob us of the joy of a heart of gratitude. Looking at something from the wrong perspective often gives us the wrong viewpoint. The backside of a needlepoint or an handmade oriental rug fails to show the true beauty of the object. Our lives are much like that! We need to look at the finished picture and give thanks for the bounty and richness of the blessings God has woven into the fabric of our lives.

B. Poem “Count Your Many Blessings”-- E.O. Excell

C. Let us “count some blessings” – name some “one by one.”

II. God.

A. My greatest blessing is the source of all my blessings: God!

B. Therefore I need to express my thanksgiving for this blessing.

1. Psalms 92:1-2
2. Ephesians 5:20
3. Colossians 3:15-17

C. Do I recognize and thank Him from whom all blessings flow?

1. Remember the lepers, only one out of ten returned (remembered) to thank Him!

D. Prayer is one means of giving thanks to God.

1. Philippians 4:6
 - a) **How often have we asked God (prayed) for something, received it, then forgotten to thank Him?**
2. Notice that Jesus did not forget to thank the Father at the resurrection of Lazarus:

a) John 11:41

3. It is an appropriate part of our prayers! How likely is God to answer our prayers in the future if we do not thank Him for answering those already past?

a) Luke 16:10-12

4. Let gratitude be your attitude: Christians have been known to pray, “Lord, we thank Thee that things are as well with us as they are.” And how well are they? They are wonderful! We have been given the gift of salvation – the Son of God – how much better can it be?

5. Remember to be thankful even for the little things. “The air that we breathe and the water that we drink” ¹

III. MY WIFE

A. One of my richest blessings is my loving wife.

B. A loving and faithful spouse is a blessing from the Lord!

1. Proverbs 18:22

2. Proverbs 19:14

3. Proverbs 12:4

C. She is vital and essential to my life and work.

1. She is involved in the work in ways perhaps unrecognized by others:

a) Teaches classes.

b) Travels to, and assists in, private studies.

c) Hosts 100's of people in our home each year.

d) Proof reads materials.

e) Puts up with my always-inconsistent schedule. Always drops what she is doing to assist me.

f) Counsils and guides others.

¹ Often heard in the prayers of Eric Robinson in this assembly

g) Is my confidant.

h) Is faithful in silence – doesn't repeat what she shouldn't.

i) She is wife, mother, and schoolteacher besides.

D. I should remember and appreciate her.

1. Ecclesiastes 9:9

2. Proverbs 5:18

3. It is not sufficient to just appreciate her, I need to tell her and show her.

a) Vermont'ers are famous for their silence. An old farmer in Vermont, after forty years, began to realize what a willing helper his wife had been. One day as they sat together on the porch, he said to her, "Wife, you've been such a wonderful woman that at times I can hardly keep from telling you."

b) If you have been blessed with a good wife – be thankful for her!

(1) When the worthy woman works hard all day to prepare food for guests, it makes all the difference when someone says "thank-you" or fails to say "thank-you." Such hospitable persons do not act charitably for the thanks they get, but it is only proper to thank others for such sacrifices.

IV. MY CHILDREN

A. My children are blessings from the Lord.

1. Psalms 127:3-5

B. I need to understand and appreciate my children.

1. Jacob recognized and appreciated his children.

a) Genesis 33:5

2. First, perhaps I forget to thank God for them!

3. Second, perhaps I am busy, preoccupied or just thoughtless and I don't tell my children that I appreciate and love them!

4. Being a parent means being the rule maker, enforcer and the one who

a) In the midst of all this, we often fail to give thanks for them, praise them for their good, and tell them that we love them often enough.

5. I pray for my boys (and daughter-in-law), each one of them. I ask God to help them be the kind of people that He wants them to be – and to keep them from the evil-one.

V. **MY PARENTS.**

A. My parents are a blessing from the Lord.

1. (They didn't have to be perfect to be a blessing)
2. The first commandment of the Ten Commandments given by God to His children concerning others is "Honor your father and mother."
3. As I grew up the Lord knew I needed instruction, guidance and correction. He blessed me with parents who taught me right from wrong – and taught me to love and obey the truth.
4. Sometimes those lessons were tough and hard, and I really didn't enjoy them or appreciate them at the time, but they proved to be worthwhile.
5. Cf. Hebrews 12:5-11

B. I hope that children here today will remember to say "thank you" to their parents.

1. To your mother for her love and sacrifice for you.

a) Proverbs 31:28

2. To your father for giving you food, clothing and a house to live in.

C. How do you show you are thankful?

1. By telling them "Thank you"
2. By honoring them by not complaining about what they provide for you.
3. By honoring them by readily and willingly doing the work they ask you to do.

4. By not arguing or fighting with them over the rules they give you.
5. By accepting their instruction and correction.

D. A thankless child:

1. “How sharper than a serpent’s tooth it is to have a thankless child” ²
2. I am sure that all parents would agree to that, but how much more would God concur that this is true about His frequently thankless children!

a) May we remember this to the end that we will not commit this terrible sin of being thankless.

3. It is obvious that many children are not being raised to say, “Thank-you.”

a) When I was a child, my mother did not permit me to forget to be courteous. Children have short memories and need to be taught good habits. It does not hurt to remind them of their need to be thankful and to express it.

b) Story of young college man sharing apartment and cooking duties with roommates – “mighty fine meal” after particularly bad one. “Vowed always to express appreciation for the one who fixed the meal”

VI. MY BRETHREN.

A. God has blessed me with my brethren.

1. God has given me a spiritual family that helps me, supports me, prays for me, corrects me, and enriches me!

a) Mark 10:30; and in the age to come, eternal life.”

B. I remember you brethren in my prayers.

1. This is what the apostle Paul did.

a) Philemon 1:4

b) For the faith of the Christians at Rome (Romans 1:8-9), for the faith of the Christians at Ephesus (Ephesians 1:15-16), For the work

² Shakespeare in “King Lear”

and love of the Christians at Thessalonica – (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

2. I thank God for your willingness to obey the Lord.

a) Romans 6:17

C. I need to remember to appreciate and thank you for all you have done for me.

1. For your support in preaching the gospel.

a) 1 Thessalonians 2:13

b) Philippians 1:3-11

2. For your willingness to stand for the truth.

a) Your light in this area has shined brightly.

(1) Romans 16:3-4

D. I pray to God for your spiritual bounty.

1. 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

2. Mrs. Browning, the poet, said to Charles Kingsley, the novelist, "What is the secret of your life? Tell me, that I may make mine beautiful also." Thinking for a moment the beloved old author replied, "I had a friend."

a) My life is richer by far for I have not just a friend, but a whole family of brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

VII. Conclusion:

A. Although the sermon is done (aren't you thankful?) I've only just begun to count my many blessings! SEE WHAT GOD HATH DONE?