




Welcome
TO CHURCH
THANKS FOR COMING

A circular wreath of autumnal items including pumpkins, figs, berries, and leaves on a dark background. The wreath is composed of several small orange pumpkins, purple figs, clusters of red berries, and various autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and brown. The items are arranged in a circular pattern around the central text.

THANKSGIVING 2022
Luke 6:32-36

“Giving Thanks for Love So Amazing”

Luke 6:32 For if ye love them which love you, **what thank have ye?** for sinners also love those that love them.

33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, **what thank have ye?** for sinners also do even the same.

34 And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, **what thank have ye?** for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, **hoping for nothing again**; and your **reward** shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: **for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.**

36 Be ye therefore merciful, **as your Father** also is merciful.

Throughout this year, we have considered many aspects of our wonderful theme, *Love So Amazing*. All of mankind needs to know and consider that the Creator of the universe loves each person, for which we all should be most thankful, and act accordingly.

This morning, we are observing the Lord's evaluation of the actions of those who "love" others. As He finishes the Sermon on the Mount, He compares and contrasts the examples of religious people, while He clarifies and "raises the bar" of what He expects of His children.

Heb. 6:9 But, **beloved, we are persuaded better things of you**, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

I. THE PREMISE TO CONSIDER – “...what thank have ye...”

A. The Question to Consider – Who asked?

- ❖ Jesus is closing the Sermon on the Mount and presents a question for the crowd to consider.
- ❖ The Lord often asked questions, not because He didn't know the answer, but because He wanted His audience to see themselves.

B. The Quality to Consider – Why is the question asked?

- ❖ The Lord observed how people lived their lives. He does the same today.
- ❖ Jesus asks a penetrating question – “...**what thank have ye?**”
- ❖ To properly understand the quality of our “Thanksgiving,” we must judge our character of grace toward others.

Original Word: χάρις **Transliteration:** charis

Definition: grace, kindness

Usage: (a) grace, as a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ, (b) favor, (c) gratitude, **thanks**, (d) a favor, kindness.

xáris – properly, *grace*. [*(xáris)* is sometimes rendered "thanks" but **the core-idea is "favor, grace" ("extension towards").**]

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5485.htm>

❖ How should believers extend favor, or grace, toward others?

II. THE PERFORMANCES TO CONTRAST

A. The Focus on Action

- ❖ The threefold emphasis is questioning *who do you love, to whom are you doing good, and why are you lending?*

B. The Failure of Acumen

Acumen = keen insight; shrewdness:

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/acumen>

❖ The pertinent condemnation is a lack of discernment.

❖ A believer's spiritual discernment is proportionate to his/her spiritual maturity.

1 Cor. 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: **neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Heb. 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of **full age**, *even* those who by reason of use **have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

❖ Consider the contrast being established by the Lord Jesus:

“...ye love them which love you... for sinners also love those that love them.”

“...if ye do good to them which do good to you... for sinners also do even the same.”

“...if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive...for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.”

❖ Too often a believer has self-deceit of the quality of spirituality. Jesus wants us to question ourselves regarding our standing in His eyes.

❖ Matthew provided another question and contrast:

Mt. 5:46 For **if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?**

Original Word: μισθός

Transliteration: misthos

Definition: wages, hire; **Usage:** (a) pay, wages, salary, (b) reward, recompense, punishment.

misthós – a reward (recompense) that appropriately compensates a particular decision (action).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3408.htm>

- ❖ What type of reward is expected if the actions are like those of the publicans!
- ❖ Jesus' focus is bringing attention to action that is hypocritical according to His standard.

III. THE PRINCIPLE TO COPY

A. Develop a Higher Standard of Loving

Luke 6:35 But **love** ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, **hoping for nothing again**; and your **reward** shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil.

❖ Love the unlovable – “But love ye your enemies...”

❖ Forget about yourself – “...and do good, and lend, **hoping for nothing again...**”

B. Develop a Higher Standard of Living

Luke 6:36 **Be ye** therefore merciful, **as your Father** also is merciful.

❖ Be like your heavenly Father and focus upon pleasing Him, having His grace.

Jn. 15:8 Herein is **my Father glorified**, that ye **bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

2 Cor. 13:14 The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **love** of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

Eph. 6:24 **Grace** *be* with all them that **love** our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

2 Thess. 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, **which hath loved us**, and **hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace**,
17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

1 Tim. 1:14 And the **grace** of our Lord was **exceeding abundant with faith and love** which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Cor. 4:15 For all things *are* for your sakes, that **the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.**

redound

to have a good or bad effect or result, as to the advantage or disadvantage of a person or thing.

to result or accrue, as to a person.

to come back or reflect upon a person as to honor or disgrace (usually followed by *on* or *upon*).

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/redound>

To conduce in the consequence; to contribute; to result.

To proceed in the consequence or effect; to result.

<https://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/redound>

Summary

- ❖ Because it is important to the Lord Jesus that we see ourselves, judge action by motive.
- ❖ Set a standard that God approves, and do NOT be like the world!

Conclusion

- ❖ As believers consider their actions, they must consider, honestly, the grace of thanksgiving in their own heart.
- ❖ Jesus set the standard very high about attitudes and actions that are supposed to represent Him.
- ❖ DO NOT BE LIKE THE WORLD.
BE LIKE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that in the last days
perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves,
covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient
to parents, **unthankful**, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false
accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that
are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures
more than lovers of God;**

5 **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power
thereof: from such turn away.



Always
GRATEFUL

PHILIPPIANS 4:6