PRAISE

Thanksgiving

Five Kernels of Corn

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Five Kernels of Corn

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbHLbc1l-qQ

> *Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good; and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*
>
> PSALM 100:4–5 (NIV)

During the harsh first winter at Plymouth Colony, food became so scarce that, according to a familiar Thanksgiving tradition, each person's daily ration was reduced to just five kernels of corn.

Through immense hardship, loss, and hunger, the Pilgrims clung to their faith in God.

Psalm 100:4–5 (NIV) reminds us: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good; and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

In later years, five kernels of corn were placed on each plate at Thanksgiving as a tangible reminder to count one's blessings. Each kernel represented something precious: the harvest that sustained them, their love for one another, the blessing of family, friendship with Native Americans, and the freedom to worship God.

Governor William Bradford recorded another remarkable moment in the colony's early history. In 1623, after a devastating summer drought threatened their crops, the colonists gathered for a day of prayer. Rain arrived that evening, bringing relief to the parched fields and hope for a harvest that would help sustain the struggling settlement.

Those five kernels remind us how easily we can overlook our blessings when life is comfortable—and how precious each one becomes when life is hard.

I began to wonder: Where would those early settlers have been without those five kernels of corn? Perhaps they would not have survived.

And then I thought of my own life. Where would I be without Jesus? Like those early Pilgrims, I have weathered seasons of hardship, sorrow, and uncertainty. I honestly don't know how I would have made it through without Him.

Cory Asbury beautifully captures this truth in his song "Blessed Be," reminding us to consider where we would be without Jesus and the saving grace He offers.

This Thanksgiving, perhaps we could all take a moment to count our own five kernels—not simply the blessings that make life comfortable, but the ones that remind us of God's faithfulness when life is anything but easy.

Because when everything else seems uncertain, Jesus remains our greatest blessing.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the countless blessings we so often take for granted. When life is abundant, keep us humble and grateful. When life is difficult, remind us of Your steadfast love and sustaining grace.

Thank You for sending Jesus, who carries us through our darkest valleys and gives us hope when we cannot see the way forward.

Lord, help us count our blessings, cherish the people You have placed in our lives, and never forget the greatest gift of all—Your Son, Jesus Christ.

May our hearts overflow with thanksgiving, not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day of our lives. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

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