PRAISE

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Seagulls

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Thanksgiving Seagulls

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmq2m8g1ZeQ

> *Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*
>
> PSALM 107:8–9

Eddie Rickenbacker was a World War I hero and America's leading fighter ace, credited with 26 aerial victories as commander of the U.S. Army Air Service's 94th Aero Squadron. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery.

By the time World War II began, Rickenbacker was no longer serving as a combat pilot. Instead, he traveled to the Pacific on a military mission as a civilian observer for the Secretary of War.

In 1942, during that mission, his plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean. Rickenbacker and his crew were left stranded on a life raft for 24 days.

Hungry, exhausted, and losing hope, the men prayed to God for rescue. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, a seagull landed on Rickenbacker's head! They caught the bird and used its meat for food and its intestines as bait to catch fish.

That unexpected gift helped sustain them until rescue came. It was a simple prayer in a desperate moment, but praise God, hope had not been lost!

In Psalm 107:8–9, we read: “Let them praise the Lord for his great love and for the wonderful things he has done for them. For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.”

God meets us at our lowest points, sometimes using the most unexpected means to provide for our needs. True thanksgiving is more than a holiday sentiment; it is a lifelong practice of remembering His faithfulness, especially when we recall where we were when He rescued us.

According to the story, Rickenbacker never forgot the seagull that helped save his life. For years afterward, he reportedly walked to the end of a pier every Friday afternoon with a bucket of shrimp to feed the seagulls. It was his personal way of expressing profound and lasting gratitude.

It was as if he celebrated Thanksgiving every Friday!

Rickenbacker’s story reminds me of a simple song, “Say a Prayer” by Zach Williams:

“When there’s nowhere left to run to When there’s no one else to turn to When I can’t find the answers anywhere… I can say a prayer.”

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, thank You for hearing us when we call upon You, especially when we feel stranded by circumstances beyond our control. Open our eyes to recognize Your provision, even when it arrives in unexpected ways.

Help us remember Your faithfulness in our darkest moments and carry hearts of gratitude into every season of life.

May we never take Your goodness for granted, and may our lives become a living expression of thanksgiving—not just on one special day, but every day. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Karen Good

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