

"With Thankful Hearts"

Tuesday, November 23



"Altar Table"

Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way." His disciples answered, "Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?" "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish." He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was four thousand men, besides women and children.

Mark 8:30-38

This is the second time in Mark's gospel that Jesus feeds thousands of people. The first in Mark 6 was 5000. Here in Mark 8 he feeds 4000 because he has compassion for them. In Ann Voskamp's book, One Thousand Gifts, she notes that Jesus first gives thanks and THEN the miracle happens. We tend to think of giving thanks AFTER something happens to our satisfaction or surprise. But it is important to pay attention to this thankfulness that precedes the blessing.

"With Thankful Hearts"

How should we give thanks? Before we recognize that God has blessed us. We give thanks and worship God as a rhythm of life not as an acknowledgement of blessings given. We give thanks....just because.