



# Thanksgiving

Who Will Return? // November 20, 2011 // David McQueen

## MESSAGE RECAP

**Though it is unnatural and unpopular, thankfulness builds our faith and leads us to the presence of God (Psalm 100:1-5).** Like the Samaritan healed of his leprosy, we must be a people who battle against self-promoting entitlement and seek to diligently express our gratitude and praise to the Lord (*Luke 17:11-19*). In Him we are saved and become His adopted children. Through Him we gain access to the Father and His infinite goodness. These facts are reason enough to extravagantly worship and express heart-felt appreciation to Him (*1 Thess. 5:16-19; Col. 3:17*).

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## GETTING STARTED

1. What makes thankfulness unnatural and especially difficult for those who are *blessed* or who possess a mindset of entitlement?

## GOING DEEPER

1. In his message, Pastor David tells about the incredible gratitude of many financially poor Christians in India that he was privileged to meet. Why does thanksgiving come from those who *expect the least*?
2. What is the connection between thankfulness and worship? Why must our thankfulness be emotional and not just logical?
3. How can a lack of gratitude hinder our measure of *faith* in Jesus or our desire for a life of *faith*?

## MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. What makes thankfulness most challenging or unnatural for you? Upon self-examination, do you carry a mindset of entitlement? Where do you think your sense of privilege originated?
2. What are you most thankful for today?

## MINISTRY TIME

Those who freely offer gratitude also freely worship. **Take time as a group to worship the Lord in song or in simple prayer.** Declare to Him the elements of His heart and character for which you are most thankful. Verbally express thankfulness for what He has accomplished for you. Ask Him to bring freedom from any measure of entitlement.

## TAKING ACTION

The challenge this is week is to express meaningful thankfulness to an unlikely person (e.g. a waitress, a store clerk, a co-worker, etc.). Go beyond a simple *thank you* in passing, and pause long enough to make purposeful eye contact and to express **why** you are thankful to that person. As you express gratitude, be mindful of any opportunities to pray over or to speak prophetically into their lives as well.

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## JUST FOR LEADERS

### VISION CASTING:

Encourage your Life Group this holiday season to **think transformation** not just inwardly in your group but also outwardly to a person or family in need. How can your group be an instrument of transformation by serving and blessing the life of someone outside your group? Would someone in your Life Group be willing to organize and facilitate a combined project of blessing?

### CRITICAL DATES & INFORMATION:

Wednesday, November 30 - DNA Infusion at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 10 - Christmas sack stuffing for local prison inmates (for *Christmas Unleashed*)



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