

## Thanksgiving

Sir 50:22-24

1Cor 1:3-9

Lk 17:11-19

Thanksgiving is rooted in the deep faith of our ancestors

Acknowledged their blessings were from God & paused to give thanks

For us – it's not too hard to recognize our blessings (all around us)

BUT it is hard to pause – to stop – to take time

I want to look at SIRACH – if you understand what was going on this is a powerful text

- ~200 BCE
- Alexander the Great's successors squabbling about Judea

- Not a good time to be Jewish

- High Priest "Simon the Just"

SIR 50 speaks of him → Simon "repaired the house", "fortified the temple", and "considered how to save his people from ruin"

In the midst of THIS comes THIS BLESSING, a hymn, A BENEDICTION (3verses)

**(He pauses – stops – & takes time to glorify God – *despite his situation*)**

"Bless the God of all who has done wondrous things on earth" AHHHHH

Look around and see the blessings of God (despite troubles of life)

Did you hear the Alleluia verse before the Gospel?

"In all circumstances, give thanks – for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

**NB - IT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US that  
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCE GIVE THANKS**

In SIR 50 - Simon the Just "considered how to save his people from ruin"

What does he do?

"Bless the God of all, who has done wondrous things on earth" AHHHH

Despite the tough times he faced – Simon the Just did God's will for him.

"In all circumstances, give thanks – for this is the will of God for you"

This Thanksgiving let us take this to heart

This Thanksgiving let Simon the Just be our example

In all circumstances let us thank the Lord our God

This Thanksgiving - STOP – TAKE A DEEP BREATH – THANK GOD