

Thanksgiving

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 – and God raises up High Priest “Simon the Just”
- SIR 50 speaks of him **V1** → Simon “repaired the house”, “fortified the temple”, and “considered how to save his people from ruin”

In the midst of THIS comes THIS BLESSING, v22, A BENEDICTION (**Read it**)

(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)

“God, who fosters people's **growth** from their mother's womb”

“May He grant you joy of heart and may peace abide among you”

‘God who fosters people's growth from their mother's womb’

DEFINITION OF GROWTH

- We have blessings – what are we ‘the best at’? SIN
what are we unsure of? TRUST, SURRENDER, LOVE
on the word of one who loves us? Who's that? JESUS

SO WE GIVE THANKS AND REJOICE - **PSALM**

WHY? 1COR

“For the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus”

“So that you're not lacking in any spiritual gifts”

I can't trust I can't surrender I can't love

CRAP – **you are gifted to do exactly that!**

Gospel

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

TEN Lepers

When we give thanks – it's for things in PAST or PRESENT **-or- FUTURE “in faith”**

Lepers healed “on their way” to the priest “in faith”

Jesus didn't heal – He said, “Go show yourselves to the priest” WHY

Lepers were unclean

To be declared clean they must be healed AND Priest inspects & declares them CLEAN

Blood on TOE, THUMB, EARLOBE

That wherever they GO, whatever they DO, whenever they hear Word of GOD

They should give thanks

We each have a relationship with God

We are called **to grow** in our relationship with God.

We are called **to be made clean**. That where we go, whatever we do,

We give God thanks.

This Thanksgiving let us take this to heart

This Thanksgiving remember the Psalm

In all circumstances let **us** thank the Lord our God.