

The Story of Jesus

(Lesson 34)

Introduction:

1. According to 2 Peter 3:18, we are to give careful attention to growing in the knowledge of Christ.
2. Jesus revealed the key to accomplishing this growth in John 5:39 -- "searching the Scriptures."
3. As we study the Lord's ministry and His teaching in the Scriptures, we see that a number of references are made to "giving thanks."
4. In our lesson we will show:
 - a. from the Gospels that giving thanks was very important to Jesus
 - b. from the New Testament epistles that Christ wants His people to be thankful.

Discussion:

- I. THE GOSPELS SHOW THAT GIVING THANKS WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO JESUS
 - A. Jesus gave thanks on many occasions, including:
 1. when He fed the 4,000 (Matthew 15:32-38)
 2. when He fed the 5,000 (John 6:5-13)
 3. when He gave instructions for His Supper (Matthew 26:26-29).
 - B. Jesus also thanked the Father:
 1. for revealing certain things to certain people (Matthew 11:25)
 2. for hearing Him (John 11:41).
 - C. During His ministry,,:
 1. Jesus commended a Samaritan who thanked Him for curing his leprosy (Luke 17:12-19)
 2. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for the way they expressed gratitude (Luke 18:9-14).
- II. THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES SHOW THAT CHRIST WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO BE THANKFUL (1 Corinthians 14:37)
 - A. Ephesians 5:3-4, 20
 - B. Philippians 4:6
 - C. Colossians 3:15, 17; 4:2
 - D. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 - E. 1 Timothy 2:1; 4:4-5
 - F. Hebrews 13:15