

Give Him Your Thanks

Are you finding it difficult to be thankful today? Fulton Oursler – journalist, art critic and author of several books, including *The Greatest Story Ever Told* – learned thankfulness from a woman who helped care for him when he was a little boy.

She told him, “Looking for good things is a kind of game an old preacher taught me to play. Take this morning. I woke up and thought, what’s here to praise God for today? You know what? I couldn’t think of a thing! Then from the kitchen came the most delicious odor that ever tickled my nose. Coffee! ‘Much obliged, Lord, for the coffee,’ I said, ‘and much obliged, too, for the smell of it.’”

Many years later, Oursler stood at the bedside of that woman as she lay dying. Seeing her in much pain, he wondered if she could still find something to be grateful for. Just then, she opened her eyes, looked at the others gathered around her bedside, and quietly said with a smile, “Much obliged, Lord, for such fine friends.”

As you read this, I am aware that most of us – yea, even every one of us – is facing some kind of challenge or issue that is creating stress. Perhaps the survey team is in your building. Maybe a valued associate has announced that he or she is leaving. It could be that you are concerned over the illness of a family member, a friend, or even a medical report about yourself.

I can’t think of a better time than today to begin looking for things to be grateful for. It might be the beauty of the flowers you noticed on your way to work. Or the cheeriness in the song of a bird in the bushes. Or the smile of a good friend as you entered your place of work.

We serve a good God who loves us supremely and shows it in many ways. As you offer your gratitude, it won’t matter what words you use – whether you say, “Thank You, Father,” or “Much obliged, Lord.”

The important thing is to say it.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord (Psalm 92:1).

--Beecher Hunter