

Lesson from a Beggar

King Alfonso XIX of Spain learned that the boys who served in his court were forgetting to pray before their meals. So he decided to teach them a lesson.

He gave a banquet and invited them to attend. Midway through the dinner, a ragged beggar came in, sat down, and began eating ravenously.

When he was finished, he went out without saying a word.

“That ungrateful wretch ought to be whipped,” shouted the boys. “He ate the king’s food and never showed gratitude.”

Quietly, the king rose to his feet, and silence fell over the group.

“Daily you have taken the rich blessings of life from the hand of your heavenly Father,” said the king. “You’ve enjoyed His sunshine, breathed his air, eaten food He has provided, and you have not bothered to say ‘thank you’ for any of them. You are more ungrateful than that beggar.”

Let us never settle for a full stomach and a soul famished by ingratitude.

He who forgets the language of gratitude is not likely to be on speaking terms with God.

--Beecher Hunter