



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: How to Turn Thanksgiving into Thanks-living – Part 2

Guest(s): Adrian Rogers

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Dr. James Dobson: Well, hello, everyone. I'm James Dobson and you're listening to Family Talk, a listener supported ministry. In fact, thank you so much for being part of that support for James Dobson Family Institute.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome back to Family Talk, the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, thanking you for taking time to be with us today as the holiday season officially commences. Of course, tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day and so on today's broadcast, we wanted to continue with Part 2 of a powerful presentation about daily gratitude and sacrifice, literally turning Thanksgiving into Thanks-living. First though, I want to take a brief moment to remind you that this coming Tuesday, November 28th, is Giving Tuesday. It's a global, one day generosity event. Here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we would love for you to consider making a financial contribution to support us. And this year, thanks to some very special friends of the ministry, we have a matching gift of \$75,000, available to make your dollars go twice as far. That is double the impact. So for more information about how you can make your special Giving Tuesday donation this coming Tuesday, November 28, visit us at drjamesdobson.org. That's drjamesdobson.org.

Now, in just a moment, we're going to hear timeless wisdom about Thanksgiving from the late Adrian Rogers. Before he went home to be with the Lord in 2005, Pastor Rogers was a powerful preacher and demonstrated a sound authority in the pulpit. He was a bestselling author and served as head pastor at Bellevue Baptist Church in Tennessee for over three decades. Adrian Rogers also founded and hosted a TV and radio ministry called *Love Worth Finding* that still broadcasts in 150 countries around the world even today. Now, as we begin today's presentation, you're going to hear a little bit of yesterday's message for better context for the conclusion of this thought-provoking message. Here now is Adrian Rogers right here on Family Talk.

Adrian Rogers: Now remember, we're talking about the sacrifices of Thanksgiving. First of all, you're a person. Now right behind that should come the sacrifice of your praise. Turn with me to Hebrews 13 and look if you will, in verse 15. "By him therefore," and the him refers to Jesus. "By him therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise," underscore it, the sacrifice of praise. Have you ever thought of your praise as being a sacrifice? When you offer the sacrifice of praise, I'm

going to tell you something that may amaze you. God would rather have your praise than have your money. Your praise is of more value to God than whatever you put in the offering plate this morning, that is if it is genuine praise. And I have a verse, I found a verse that proves that. Psalm 69:30-31, don't turn to it. Let me read it to you. "I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or a bullock that have horns and hooves."

Do you know how much an ox was worth in this day? That would be like you coming to the church this morning and saying, "I'm going to give my Mercedes." An ox was extremely valuable. A man had an ox and he was a wealthy man, but God says here that your praise, your song of thanksgiving will please the Lord more than your material gifts. Now, I want to tell you that praise is no substitute for your material gifts, and we're going to see that later on. But I'm saying this morning, if you could only understand how important your praise is, and your praise ought to be a way of life. Look at our verse again, verse 15, "By him therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God." What's that next word? Continually, continually. Folks, listen to me. You do not come to church to praise the Lord.

You're to bring your praise with you to church. You don't commence your praise here. You continue your praise here. You are to praise the Lord continually, and the reason that some of us do such a poor job of praising God when we come to church to praise Him corporately is we haven't been praising Him privately. Psalm 34:1, "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth." And we're to come to the Lord's house today and just worship the Lord and we're to worship him, not grudgingly. Nobody ought to have to beg us to sing, that you should have to be coerced to sing. The Bible says in Psalm 119:108, "Accept, I beseech thee the free will offerings of my mouth, the free will offerings of my mouth." God help us to offer to him this morning the sacrifice of praise.

Now, there's a third sacrifice I want to mention. First of all, remember, we give our body as a living sacrifice. That's our person. Secondly, there's the offering to God, the sacrifice of praise. That's just the fruit of our lips continually, it means more ladies and gentlemen than you're giving your wealth is for you to give your worship to our great God. Now, here's the third thing and very closely akin to our praise, but not exactly the same is our prayer, our prayer. That's the third sacrifice of thanksgiving and that is our prayer, our person, our praise, and now our prayer. Let me give you the verse. Are you ready for it? Psalm 141:2, listen to it. "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense." Now, if you again, don't mind marking your Bible, underscore the word incense, "and the lifting of my hands as the evening sacrifice." There's our word sacrifice again.

In all of these scriptures we have the word sacrifice. Psalm 141:2, "The lifting of my hands as the evening sacrifice." Now, your prayer is to be like two things. Number one, it is to be like incense, and number two, it is to be like the evening sacrifice. Now, what does this mean? What is incense? Incense is perfume, that

in order for that perfume to be released it has to be put on the fire. It is burned and as it is burned, the aroma is perfume that just goes up in smoke. Now your prayer, the Bible tells us in Revelation 5 that that incense is the prayer of the saints. Incense in the Old Testament that ascends up, that sweet smelling smoke that goes up is like our prayer that goes up to God. Now, the Old Testament Jews worshiped in a tabernacle, and if you were to walk in the front door of the tabernacle, you would come into the tabernacle and as you approach the tabernacle there in that outer court is a great altar made of brass. It was called the brazen altar.

There was a fire in that altar and that fire was kindled from Heaven. That's very important that you understand this, that Aaron, the high priest and others, they didn't strike a match and light that fire. Of course, they had no matches, but they couldn't light it with fire from any other fire or lightning or anything else. That fire had to be kindled from heaven. It was holy fire in that brass altar, and it was on that altar that the animals were burned and consumed. That picture, Jesus dying for our sins, that fire from heaven pictures the wrath of God, the holy wrath of God against sin. Then you would walk into that tabernacle and in that tabernacle on one side would be a beautiful candelabra. On the other side would be a table with bread on it called showbread that the priest would eat and the candelabra.

This pictures Christ our sacrifice, that's the altar. And the showbread pictures Christ our sustenance that we feed on him. And then over here the candelabra pictures Christ our sight, Christ our sacrifice, Christ our sustenance, Christ our sight. And then we come to another altar which was a golden altar. Now, this golden altar is right in front of a curtain and behind that curtain is the holy of holies, and the golden altar was the altar of incense. And as the priest would come in morning and evening to trim the lamps, he would first go and he would offer incense upon that golden altar. But now let me tell you that the fire in the golden altar was kindled by fire from the brazen altar. It's very important you understand this, that the priest always had to make certain that the fire that was in this altar was the fire that was in that altar and the fire in that altar was fire from Heaven.

Now, he would come in with this incense which was especially concocted for God alone and he would burn it. Now of course, if there were no fire in the altar, no incense would rise to God. If there were strange fire in the altar, what the Bible calls strange fire was fire that God did not ignite, if there was strange fire, there would be swift judgment for offering to God something with strange fire, that is fire that God had not ignited. Now, if this brazen altar is Christ our sacrifice and this candlestick is Christ our sight, and this is Christ our sustenance and this is Christ our supplication, that prayer that ascends to God, that just makes way so we can go into the holy of holies with Christ our satisfaction. Do you understand? Where we know the Lord, where we meet the Lord, where we are satisfied and the deepest longings of our heart are met.

But friend, you cannot come into the holy of holies unless you come to the altar of incense, which is prayer. But wait a minute, you cannot come to the altar of incense unless you come to the brazen altar. Don't try to offer prayer that is not prayer based on the blood of Jesus Christ. We enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus Christ, and don't try to offer any prayer that does not have in it the fire of God's sacrifice and God's holiness. And then when I come to him, I can burn incense to him if that incense is based upon the blood of Jesus Christ. But the Bible says if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. Friend, you have no basis to come to God except by the blood. And when you come by the blood and then you come to that golden altar and you begin to pray like sweet perfume, that prayer goes to God and that my friend, the Bible calls a sacrifice. You are a priest. You are a priest. Did you offer any incense this morning?

Morning and evening, the priest would go into the tabernacle to trim the lamps. Have you been in there yet? I mean, you say that you love God, you say that you belong to him. You say that you are priest. Have you offered the sacrifice of prayer? That's a sacrifice not just coming to God to get things done. Oh, friend, listen to our verse again. What a beautiful verse it is. Listen to it. Psalm 141:2, "Let my prayer be set before thee as incense and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice." Isn't that beautiful? Incense with strange fire was judged. Incense with no fire is useless. That fire pictures what Jesus did for us on the cross. Now, let me mention the fourth sacrifice. The first one, what was it? Our bodies. That is our person. The second, our praise, the fruit of our lips. The third, our prayer. The fourth of these spiritual sacrifices is our possessions. Now, don't think because something is spiritual that it has to be immaterial. We are to give our possessions.

Now, you're in Hebrews 13 and we read verse 15 that speaks of the sacrifice of praise. Now Hebrews 13, turn back to it. Yes, we've already left it, turn back to it. Hebrews 13:16, let's look at it. "But to do good and to communicate for forget not for with such sacrifices, God is well pleased." There again, he uses the word sacrifice. Now remember, we're to offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving. Now look at it again, "with such sacrifices God is well pleased." What does this word communicate mean anyway? Does it mean to write letters to someone? Does it mean to call someone on the telephone? Well, the old King James says to communicate, so I looked it up last night and four other translations than the King James. One translation gives this word communicate to distribute, the other gives it to share, the other gives it to be generous, and the other gives it to be liberal.

So to distribute, to share, to be generous, to have a liberal spirit, that's what it means to communicate, not just to talk to people. It means to take our material possessions, the things that God has given us and when we come to church or when we give by whatever means and whatever mode when we give it is to be a spiritual sacrifice. The apostle Paul received a missionary gift from the church at Philippi and he wrote back and he said in Philippians 4:8 that, "The gifts that were sent from you were a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God." And so

today you want show your thanksgiving, show it in your giving, in your giving. Does your giving really show what you think of God? It really does whether you think it or not. There's some folks who come to church on Sunday and they give God a tip. They give God the crumbs. They give God the leftover. Do you know what a lot of folks do?

I mean, they literally do this. They have their budget and they get the budget out and they say, "All right, we've got so much for the house payment. We've got to pay that. So much for the utilities, we have to pay that. So much for the car payment. We've got to pay that." And then there's tuition, these things, and they say, "Now what's left? What's left? Do we have anything to give to God? What's left?" Hey folks, you know what you ought to do? Before you write a check to anybody or anything else, you ought to make a gift to Jesus-

Audience: Amen.

Adrian Rogers: ... first. You know what the Bible says, "Honor the Lord with the first fruits of thine increase," the first fruits not what's left. Don't give God the crumbs. Don't give God the leftovers. Don't see if there's anything left for God. That's the problem. Listen, friend, God doesn't want a place in your life. Everybody says, "Give God a place in your life." He doesn't want it. Well, you say, "Yes, you're right. Give Him prominence in your life." He doesn't want prominence. He demands preeminence. Preeminence. You're to honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase. I was reading in Malachi, it is something. In Malachi 1:8, and this is what the Lord said to the people of His day.

"You offer the blind for sacrifice, and if you offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if you offer the lame and the sick, is it not evil? Offer it now unto thy governor, will he be pleased with thee or accept thy person? Sayeth the Lord of hosts." You know what they were doing? They were saying, "Well, we've got to make an offering to the Lord. Well, we got an old blind calf over here. Let's give that blind calf, and we've got a sick goat. That goat's not going to live anyway. Let's bring it down to the priest and let the priest kill it." Malachi said, "You are offering blind animals and crippled animals to God. Why don't you take it over here and give it to the governor and see if the governor will accept it?" We give to God things we wouldn't give to one another for Christmas presents or birthday presents, to our God. Now folks, listen. We don't just give to the church because the church needs it.

We don't give to a cause. It's a sacrifice to God. Friend, if there were not a need in this world and if we just took the money that was given on Sunday and burned it up, by the way, we ain't going to do it, but I mean just put it in a furnace and burned it up, it'd still be a blessing just to come and give it. Do you believe that? I do. That's what they did with the Old Testament sacrifices, they burned them up. They burned them up. They weren't given to a need. They were given to God. It was put on an altar and it was consumed. It didn't serve any utilitarian purpose. We just gave it because we wanted to give it to a great

God as a sacrifice of His goodness to us. We need to get out of this thing saying, "Well, I don't know whether I agree with that need or I don't think I'm going to give to this cause." Friend, we're giving to God.

We're giving to God. It's a sacrifice to our great God. "And every man giveth as he purposed it in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity." That is, you're not giving to a cause. You're not giving because somebody has made you do it, not giving grudgingly or of necessity for God loveth a cheerful giver. One last thing and I'll be finished. Not only is there the sacrifice of our possessions, one last of these five thanksgiving sacrifices, the sacrifices of thanksgiving. There is finally the sacrifice of a broken and a contrite spirit, which I want to call the sacrifice of purity. Would you turn to Psalm 51 here for just a moment? And by the way, all of these sacrifices are based on first of all of what He has done for us, and we just turn around and we do back to Him because of what He's done for us.

We first love Him because He loved us. We give to Him because He first gave unto us, and of thine own have we given unto thee. Now, look, if you will, in Psalm 51:17, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, oh God, thou will not despise." That's the last of these five sacrifices I want to suggest this Thanksgiving. Do you have that sacrifice of broken and a contrite spirit? Why did I call it the sacrifice of purity? Because David had sinned. And what was it that broke David's heart? His sin against God. You see, God was so good. Notice in Psalm 51:1, "Have mercy upon me, oh God, according to thy loving kindness, according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions." Do you know what it was that led David to a broken spirit? Do you know what it was?

It was not David's badness. It was God's goodness. God's goodness. The Bible tells us over in the book of Romans that it is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance, not the badness of man. God is so good. How could we sin against such love? How can you this Thanksgiving season, one who suffered, bled and died for you, if you say you love Him, then get rid of the sin that breaks His heart. Get rid of it. A broken and a contrite spirit. Oh friend, I said that our sins were the nails that nailed Him to that tree, and our hard hearts, the hammers that drove those nails. A broken and a contrite spirit thou will not despise. We sit in our churches on some Sunday mornings acting like we've done God a favor when we get here, haughty, unbent, unbroken.

Oh, how we ought to bow down before our great God and just say, "Oh God, in brokenness and humility I offer, dear God, tears of repentance and Lord, purity of life before you. And this Thanksgiving, Lord, you're going to see in my life, dear God, there will be no unconfessed, unrepentant of sin in my life." Listen to me. Don't you believe if the Bible says we're to offer to God the sacrifices of thanksgiving that ought to include our person, it ought to include our praise, it ought to include our prayer, it ought to include our possessions and it ought to include a pure life? Just say, Lord, this is what I'm going to render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me. I want every head bowed and every eye closed in

this building today. No one staring, no one looking around. And listen folks, just examine your heart right now. Examine your heart.

I'm not trying to put you under guilt trip. God knows I'm not. I don't want you to do something because of guilt, but because of grace, because of God's great love for you. But what about it? Have you given yourself wholly, totally, completely, 100% to Him? Have you placed your all on the altar? What about your praise? Have you developed the wonderful habit of perpetual praise? What about your prayer? Do you go in to trim the lamps and to burn the incense? What about your possessions? Are they totally completely committed to the Lord? What about your purity? Is there any unconfessed, unrepentant of sin in your life? Make a checklist. This Thanksgiving season offer to God these sacrifices. He'll be well pleased. Father, I pray, I pray in the name of Jesus that you'll just use this message to tune our hearts, to truly turn thanksgiving to thanks-living in your dear name, I pray.

Roger Marsh:

Amen and amen. What a powerful and stirring message from the late Adrian Rogers here on Family Talk. Nearly 20 years after he went home to be with the Lord, we can tell that his sermons are still packed full of biblical truth that remain so applicable to our lives even today. I trust that you enjoyed his wisdom as much as I did, and if you missed any part of this two day presentation or if you'd like to share it with a friend, simply visit us online at drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. While you're there, you can also connect with Pastor Rogers' ministry or his church, which are continuing his legacy even today. That's drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. Now, during this holiday season, you will more than likely want to be spending some quality time with your loved ones that, perhaps, there's an area as a parent or a spouse that you'll realize, "Hey, maybe I need some encouragement or even some wisdom."

Here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, we have a helpful resource for you, it's called the "Family Resource Collection." This is a six CD compilation that includes helpful and inspiring broadcasts featuring Dr. James Dobson and Dr. Tim Clinton, along with their guests, Reverend Franklin Graham, Abby Johnson, Pastor Sammy and Eva Rodriguez and more. Topics include celebrating moms and dads, building a godly marriage, the miracle of life, and what it means to be a godly man. Now, we'll be happy to send you a copy of the "Family Resource Collection." This six CD set is our way of thanking you for your gift of any amount in support of the ministry of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute today.

So drop us a line, go to drjamesdobson.org and click the link at the bottom of this broadcast page, and you can make your request known there. That's drjamesdobson.org. Scroll all the way down to the broadcast page and you'll find the link. I'm Roger Marsh, and from all of us here at the JDFI thank you for making Family Talk a part of your day. May God continue to richly bless you and your family as you continue to grow deeper and stronger in your relationship with him. And be sure to join us again tomorrow for a special Thanksgiving Day edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer: This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.