

## When He Gave Thanks

**Introduction:** While Thanksgiving is one of our favorite holidays, we need to understand that thanksgiving is not simply a holiday, but part of God's will for our lives. What if we lived like that?

### Discussion Questions

1. What is your favorite Thanksgiving memory?
2. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** How can you be thankful in circumstances that are difficult and even terrible? What are some practical ways to follow the command to be joyful, pray without ceasing, and be thankful in all circumstances?
3. Read **John 6:11-13;23** Why would Jesus give thanks for provision that seemed too little? Why do you think John mentions Jesus giving thanks in his description of the place in verse 23?
4. Why is it important to recognize God's provision even in difficult circumstances? Can you recall a difficult situation in your life where you recognized God's provision? How did it affect your faith and thankfulness?
5. Read John 11:41-42 Jesus thanks God for hearing him. What does it say to you that God hears your prayers? Do you ever wonder if that's true? If it is – is that reason for thankfulness?
6. In what ways can you practice gratitude every day, and how do you think it will impact your relationship with God?

**Shaping Your Mind** – *Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." John 11:41-42*

**Moving Forward** – When we recognize everything we have is a gift from God, it's easier to give it back.