

Greatness in Christ's Kingdom

Luke 22:14-30

Halifax: 6 September 2009

Introduction:

As most of you who know,

- my normal practice in preaching is to work through a book in the Bible, paragraph by paragraph.
 - I find this to be a good method for several reasons.
 - For one thing, it gives you some continuity in that we follow along in a particular book in the Bible and you know where we are in the series...
 - For another thing, it forces me to preach about things that I might otherwise shy away from—
 - It also has the added advantage for me that I don't have to decide what to preach from each week.
- But as most of you also know, I also believe it is important to break from our regular series from time to time to preach a special message—
 - an occasional message as it is sometimes called.
 - I believe this ought to be done because we have examples of it in the scripture...
 - When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the church, it called for a sermon.
 - When the tower of Siloam fell and this was on everyone's mind, Jesus preached a special message about the need of all to repent.
 - When certain problems arise or heresies break out, these were directly addressed in preaching.
 - Sometimes there are tragic occasions and sometimes there are happy occasions that call for a special message.

Well today, I am happy to say that I have a happy occasion about which I wish to speak.

- Today, we are welcoming four new members into this congregation.
 - Just this past week I was speaking to Mary about how thankful I am for the people that God has brought into this church...
 - You are the most encouraging congregation I have ever been involved in—since 1983 when I first came into the ministry.
 - Your eagerness to please the Lord, to learn of Him, and to tell others about Him, and to walk in His ways is a true blessing from the Lord.
 - God has given us a sweet unity at this time, and I pray that it will continue.

- As Paul said about some of the congregations he ministered to, so I say to you:
 - “I give thanks to God for you all, making mention of you in my prayers!”
- I am not one for exact anniversaries, but it was about twelve years ago that this congregation met for our first regular worship service.
 - At that first service, I remember that Michelle Nash was baptised.
 - And now, here we are 12 years later, receiving four new members.
- From the very beginning, I, as the pastor of this congregation, have had a desire that we would be characterised by two things:
 - a rigorous uncompromising commitment to God’s truth—orthodoxy
 - and a heartfelt zeal for service—love.
- It is a sad reality that the church of Jesus Christ has very often gravitated to one or the other of these...
 - So often it seems like those who are zealous for orthodoxy are cold and dead...
 - while those who are zealous for service and love cast doctrine to the wind.
 - This is so much the case that whenever people hear of a church that:
 - believes in predestination and in a literal hell,
 - holds that nothing is to be done in worship but what God has specifically appointed,
 - holds to the authority of God’s moral law,
 - exercises church discipline,
 - and believes that there is no way of salvation for any who are outside of Christ...
 - I say, whenever people hear of a church like that, they automatically suppose that there is no way that such a church...
 - will reach out to the lost and weep for them,
 - will care for the needy,
 - will joyfully restore those who have fallen into vile sins,
 - will have homes where the children actually love their parents,
 - will have marriages where husbands lay down their lives for their wives and their wives actually want to submit to them,
 - will be filled with kindness and generosity...
- It is a very sad thing, but sometimes our experience is that orthodoxy and love cannot go together...
 - that they are somehow mutually exclusive and you have to emphasise one or the other...
 - This is very sad because our Lord teaches the very opposite!

- He teaches that orthodoxy and loving service must go together!
 - That so-called orthodoxy without love is hypocrisy—it is a sham...
 - And that so-called love that is not grounded in orthodox truth is idolatry.
- The epistles in the New Testament very often follow a pattern...
 - They have a doctrinal section and then move into a practical section,
 - showing us that service to God (which is service to one another) is supposed to grow out of a trust in His promises and a delight in what He has done for us.
- Today I want to show you that this is what Jesus calls us to aspire to in His kingdom!
 - In Luke 22, we are shown that the greatness we are to seek in His kingdom is greatness in service that grows out of trust in Him.
 - Today, as we receive new members,
 - I want us to think about this greatness.
 - When you joined this congregation, you committed yourself to the pursuit of this greatness!
 - Let's look at this greatness He calls us to attain by His grace and let us commit ourselves afresh to the pursuit of it with zeal!

I. First of all, I want you to see how Jesus instructs you in true greatness.

- A. You can see the occasion out of which this subject arises in Luke 22:24...
1. Jesus' disciples are having a dispute about which of them should be considered the greatest...
 - I don't think they all thought they should be the greatest...
 - It was more just that they were concerned about what rank each of them should have.
 - It is not unlikely that when they gathered to eat the Passover,
 - they were in a dispute about which of them should take on the lowly task of washing the feet of the others.
 - John tells us that to their utter amazement, Jesus got up and girded himself with a towel and took up this task.
 - He shows how inappropriate it was for none of them to be willing to take on this responsibility.
 - We don't know for sure when they had this dispute about greatness,

- but we do know how the Holy Spirit guided Luke to place his account of this dispute right after the institution of the Lord's Supper!
 - In this way, we are shown how inappropriate it was for them to be thinking about such things!
 - Here we have Jesus telling them that He is taking the lowliest place of all to become a sacrificed for them...
 - and they are quarrelling about their rankings!
 - How alien this was to the mind of the Lord!
2. It is clear from what Jesus says to them here that they were thinking about greatness in the way the world thinks about greatness.
- a. In verse 25, Jesus says,
- Luke 22:25: "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.'
 - This was very common...
 - Both in our day and in Jesus' day,
 - leaders are often called by titles suggestive of service...
 - They are called prime ministers or benefactors or such things.
 - The language suggests that they give themselves these titles.
 - The problem is not so much in being called by such titles,
 - reminding themselves that they were supposed to be there to serve the people...
 - but more in the fact that they assume the *title* of a servant when they did not act like servants.
 - Jesus is showing the reality of the situation...
 - The title was a sham...
 - Jesus says,
 - Luke 22:26: But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.
- b. You think about it—how do we often measure greatness in this world?
- It is just the opposite of what Jesus says here... don't you think?
 - We consider the greatest person to be the person who has the most people serving him!

- You hear about a chap who has a chauffeur and gardeners and maids and cooks and accountants and agents and secretaries and you say,
 - “now there is a great man!”
 - I always think of Absalom who, wanting to be great, got fifty men to run before him!
 - We tend to measure a man’s greatness by how many people he has waiting on him—
 - Jesus is not saying here that is wrong for a king to have servants—kings need servants...
 - but the point is that a person’s greatness in His Jesus’ kingdom is not to be measured by how many people he has waiting on him,
 - but by how much he truly gives himself for others!
 - And most kings don’t give themselves for others any more than they have to to keep up a good appearance...
 - Their primary concern is for themselves...
 - for their own position and their own comforts and their own honour.
- c. When Jesus’ disciples were talking about which of them was to be the greatest in the kingdom,
- they were also thinking along these lines.
- 1) They were not thinking about the examples of greatness that Jesus had pointed to as He had taught them...
 - the widow who gave the two mites and was presented to them as an example of greatness in giving...
 - or the little children that Jesus took up in His arms and presented to the disciples as exemplary of how one is to receive His kingdom...
 - or the centurion who insisted that Jesus need not come to his house (for he was a gentile) but only speak the word to heal his servant. Jesus held this centurion up as an example of great faith.
 - 2) No, when the disciples disputed about greatness they were thinking about the thrones and honours they would receive when the kingdom was established.
 - Jesus had told them that they would be seated upon thrones in His kingdom, judging the twelve tribes of Israel... (and he repeats that here)

- But the disciples had their own idea of what that was going to look like because they did not yet have the mind of Christ...
 - They thought of the glory days of Solomon!
 - They pictured being on golden thrones with servants standing around to fan them or to bring them their shoes or their wine.
 - They pictured themselves having servants to run before them when they were carried into the city in their litters...
 - They pictured dignitaries from around the world coming to bring honour and wealth to them.
 - They were just waiting for the day that Jesus would at last be raised to His place of dignity in this world...
 - And then they would be right there at His side to share in the glory.
- 3) But Jesus had told them over and over and over that it would not be like this.
- He had told them again and again that He would die—even that He would be betrayed and crucified...
 - This just simply did not register with them...
 - You can imagine how they gave Him those blank stares that showed that they really didn't get it—because they didn't.
 - They were totally taken aback when they saw Him on that cross!
 - It just did not fit with their conception of what the Messiah was supposed to do...
 - Even though the whole Old Testament system of worship pointed to it...
 - with all those animals over all those years offered in the place of sinners.
 - Indeed, every year at the time of the Passover, the Brook Kidron ran with blood because of all the sacrifices.
 - The suffering of the Messiah was clearly presented, but they just did not get it.
 - How could Jesus have been any more plain than to tell them over and over that He was going to die—that He was going to give Himself a ransom, that He must drink the bitter cup His Father had given Him—
 - They just were not ready to receive this...

TRANS> But you see that Jesus takes this occasion of their dispute to tell them what true greatness in His kingdom is all about.

B. Jesus explains that greatness in His kingdom is measured by service for others.

1. It is about giving rather than getting.

- Look at what He says in verse 26-27:
- Having described how greatness is understood in the world, He says:
 - Luke 22:26-27: "But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.
- You see that things are exactly opposite in His kingdom.
 - Greatness is measured by how much you do for others instead of by how many people you have serving you.
 - It's not about how much you are getting, but how much you are giving—truly giving—sacrificially giving—my life for yours!

2. This is what God Himself is like.

- He is the great giver as we see at creation...
 - He does not need anything from us.
 - He is the one who gave us life—He gave us our bodies and our spirits and He gave us everything that we have in this world.
 - He gave us wisdom and righteousness and truth and beauty and goodness.
- And He created us to be His princes who would receive everything from Him and then give it out to each other in mutual love.
 - He created us to be princes who are servants and who make it our business to bless one another and to love one another and to do good to one another.

3. But we broke our connection with Him in the fall...

- a. We severed ourselves from Him and declared our independence from Him...
 - We wanted to be like God—in the wrong way.
 - In position and authority rather than in service.
 - We did not want to live as those dependent on Him, but thought we would do well if we were in charge—like God.

- We cut ourselves off from communion with Him as if He were a rival, and became dead in sin and selfishness.
- b. But all of this, as horrible as it is and as wrong as it was on our part, has a good side in the purpose of God!
- It opens up the opportunity for Him to show us how great His giving truly is!
 - At creation, God gave us everything as those who were upright...
 - but now that we are fallen,
 - He comes to give us everything we need as sinners!
- 1) You see, giving to sinners in a fallen world is quite different than giving to us at creation when we were upright...
- To give to us now that we are fallen—in such a way that we are truly benefited—
 - requires that God provide some sacrifice to atone for our sins...
 - You say, “but why couldn’t God just overlook our sin?”
 - “Can’t He do whatever pleases Him?”
 - Of course He can do whatever pleases Him!
 - But He is not pleased to deal unjustly.
 - He is not pleased to overlook sin as if it never happened.
 - It is His glory to always be just—to always punish sin as it deserves.
 - He has no interest in accepting evil and turning good and evil around backwards as we do.
 - His glory is found in His holiness!
 - And so the only way that He can give something that will benefit fallen sinners is by providing an atonement to take away their sins!
 - And there is only one thing that can atone for their sins!
 - God Himself must become the sacrifice.
 - He Himself must bear the curse for us.
 - And that is exactly what He does in the person of the Son of God.
 - And so through the occasion of the fall,

- God demonstrates to us His unspeakable generosity as the one who serves!
 - He shows to us that it is His very nature to give and in a way that is truly astonishing!
 - The depth of His love is seen in His giving when giving requires great sacrifice.
- 2) And this is the same kind of giving that He calls us to have... if we would be great in His kingdom.
- It is giving and loving in a fallen world where it is hard to love.
 - It is loving those who persecute us and ridicule us and slander us.
 - It is loving others when they are difficult and unkind.
 - It is loving others when they do not appreciate it.
 - It is loving others when they do not return the favour.
 - It is loving others when we are tired or sick and do not feel like it.
 - Learning to serve when service requires sacrifice is learning to love like Jesus loves.
 - It is a much greater, must deeper love than the love that requires no sacrifice.
 - We are to cultivate a love like this to prepare us for service in paradise where there will be no sacrifice.
 - There, you will have a love that is deep enough to suffer, and that love will be the glory and beauty of all your relationships.
 - In paradise, we will all be filled with eagerness to do good for each other.
 - And it is this same spirit of love that we are to pursue and cultivate now in this fallen world.
 - This is true greatness in His kingdom.

TRANS> You see here that Jesus presents Himself as the example!

- He says,
 - Luke 22:27: "For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? **Yet I am among you as the One who serves.**
- He is the great model for us to imitate,
 - He is the pattern for all of us to follow if we wish to be great in His kingdom.
 - In his first epistle, John explains how Jesus sets a whole new standard for love...

- He points out that to love one another is an old commandment that has been around from the beginning,
 - but now that we have Christ's example, it takes on a whole new meaning!

II. Now I want you to take a good look at the example of Christ!

- I want you to see how true it is that He is the one among us who serves!
 - There is no service so great as His service!
- As I mentioned before,
 - it is no mistake that Luke has placed this discussion about greatness right next to the passage where Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper!
 - It is right here that we see fully what He means when He says,
 - "I am among you as the one who serves!"

A. It is here at this table that Jesus tells us that **He** is the sacrifice for our sins!

1. Look at how fully He lays this marvellous truth out for us...
 - a. In verse 15, He tells His disciples that He desires to eat this Passover with them before He suffers...
 - He is reminding them again that He is going to suffer—very soon!
 - This is the last time He will eat the Passover before He suffers.
 - b. And you see in verse 16 that He tells them that He will no longer eat of it with them until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.
 - But what does He mean by the Passover being fulfilled?
 - After all, the Passover was a *memorial* of what had happened in the past,
 - You know, in Egypt when God decreed that the first born male in every household must die—
 - and how the Lord had commanded His people to kill a Passover lamb in each household and put the blood on their door way,
 - and how the Lord had promised that when the death angel came around throughout all the land of Egypt,
 - the houses of those who had the blood would be spared.
 - The lamb was offered in place of the first born son.
 - And God's promise was fulfilled!

- All the first born sons in Egypt were killed on that night,
 - but the angel of the Lord passed over all those houses that were marked with the blood of the lamb!
- So how is it that 1500 years later we have Jesus, in the upper room with His disciples, declaring that the Passover is about to be *fulfilled*?
 - It is in this...
 - The Passover lambs were only a type and shadow of the true Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ—
 - Jesus is the One John the Baptist called “the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
 - He is the one who was, on this night, getting ready to give Himself as a ransom for many.
 - In 2 Cor 5, Paul calls Him “our Passover who has been sacrificed for us.”
 - Jesus Himself is the true Passover Lamb.
 - He is getting ready to offer Himself in the place of all the members of His kingdom—
 - past present and future...
 - He is offering Himself for them, not merely in order that the death angel might not bring an untimely death to their firstborn sons,
 - but in order that God’s wrath and curse might pass over all of His people...
 - Jesus is going to take the curse so that the curse will not fall upon any of us in the day of judgement.

TRANS> Let there be no doubt that this is what He is talking about here!

c. Look at how He here presents Himself here!

- He presents Himself here as the sacrifice for us!
 - 1) He takes bread and He breaks it and He gives it to them and He says:
 - Luke 22:19: This is my body which is given for you...
 - And He takes the cup and He says,
 - Luke 22:20: This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.
 - 2) In this way, He is presenting **Himself** as the sacrifice.

- You know, God had promised that He was going to make a New Covenant with His people...
 - and that it would not be like the Old Covenant because by it they would all know Him—truly and fully as He had not been known before...
- In this covenant, He promised that He would do two things:
 - That He would forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more...
 - and that He would write His law on their hearts so that they would delight in it.

3) God was going to do all this for His sinful people!

- The people He had carefully taught about His holiness and their sinfulness...
 - their sinfulness that was so contrary to His holiness that they could not even come to a symbolic temple without offering all sorts of sacrifices...
 - and He had told them of this New Covenant that is going to bring them total forgiveness and at last restore them to true holiness!
 - What kind of sacrifice would be required for them to be able to do that?
- My dear brothers and sisters,
 - Jesus tells us what this sacrifice is right here!
 - It is Himself—sacrificed for us!
 - It is the body and blood of the one who is the very Son of God offered as a sacrifice for our sins!

2. Talk about being among us as the one who serves!

- I tell you, there is no service to compare with this!
 - The cross is not just about the suffering of physical pain.
 - No—it is about the Son of God bearing the full weight of the curse!
- My dear friends, I told you how holy God is...
 - All those who are outside of Christ are going to meet Him on the day of Judgement and when they do,
 - they will be enveloped with God’s wrath—He will be to them as a consuming fire...

- And it will be a fire that will torment them with unspeakable agony in body and soul forever and ever...
 - And I tell you that when Jesus went to the cross,
 - He suffered the full weight of the curse that the lost will suffer for all eternity.
 - He took upon Himself the full pains of Hell...
 - He did not suffer one wit less than any one of them will suffer...
 - You will say, “but it was not forever for Him...”
 - No indeed, it did not need to be—because He was the Son of God.
 - On the cross, He was able to bear the full burden of the curse during those hours of darkness until He triumphantly declared:
 - “It is finished!”
 - Such service as this ought to astound us!
 - How could it be that God Himself should become the bloody, cursed sacrifice that takes away our sin!
 - The one among us who serves—indeed!
- B. And my brothers and sisters, I want you to see His attitude about doing all this for us...
1. He is about to bear this dreadful curse—it is the very night of His betrayal—and yet He is excited about it...
 - excited? is that too cheap a word for Him on such a night as this?
 - Just look at how He is presented to us here in Luke...
 - Look at what He says in verse 15:
 - Luke 22:15: “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;
 - He uses the Hebrew way of emphasising something—
 - It is called an infinitive absolute...
 - Literally He says, “With desire I have desired.”
 - The translators are right to say, “With fervent desire I have desired.”
 - That is the meaning of these words.
 - Jesus is expressing His eagerness to eat this Passover with them.

2. But why? Why is He so eager to do this?
 - a. It is because it was at this Passover that He told His people for all time what He was about to do for them.
 - It is here that He tells them of His sacrifice that will change their destiny forever and ever!
 - It is here that He says, “This is my body given for you; This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for the forgiveness of sin!”
 - It is here on this one night that He makes known to us what is the foundation of New Covenant that reconciles all of His people to Himself!
 - It is on the basis of this sacrifice that Noah and Moses and Abraham and David and Isaiah had peace with God...and still do
 - It is on the basis of this sacrifice that Peter and James and John had peace with God...and still do
 - And it is on the basis of this sacrifice that Rob and Sara and Edna and Christina and all of you who are trusting in Him have peace with God.
 - And I say, it was on this one night that Jesus declared this to us.
 - It was on this night that He told us what He was doing for us so that we would always know!
 - He is excited because He is thinking about all His people and about telling them the good news of what he is doing!
 - b. He tells His disciples to keep on eating this bread and drinking this wine in the remembrance of what He has done...
 - In verse 19, He says, “Do this in remembrance of Me.”
 - It is a present imperative in the original which means...
 - “*Keep on doing this* in remembrance of Me.”
 - That’s why we call this the institution of the Lord’s Supper...
 - Jesus was instituting something that was to be repeated.
 - He wants us to remember what He has done and to rest in what He has done and to receive what He has done for the forgiveness of our sins.
 - He wants us to know how much He loves us and how far He went in that love to serve us and to do good for us!
 - He wants us to keep bringing this up again and again!
 - c. And I say, it is one of the saddest and most wretched things in all the world that what He did is so often forgotten and unappreciated, even in the church!

- Many of the Jews were offended by the cross and the Greeks thought it was foolish.
 - They could not imagine that God would either require that such a sacrifice be made or that He would or could ever be willing to become that sacrifice.
- And there are many in the visible church today who have the waters of baptism upon them that deny the very same thing!
 - They are too proud to have a Saviour offered to atone for their sin...
 - They will have a martyr, but they will not have a sacrifice for sin!
- Their condemnation will not slumber!
 - Jesus does not want what He did to be withheld from His dear people for whom He did it!
 - He wants it to be declared again and again...
 - He loves us!
 - He is zealous for us to know and to be comforted by what He did!
 - If we can but grasp that the Son of God died for us,
 - there is no more thought that something must be added to this sacrifice!
 - If the Son of God has died, it is ludicrous to even dream of adding something to it...
 - What?? are you going to take something that you have done and put it next to this to make it complete?
 - Oh no my friends!
 - This is your rest forever!
 - Your Saviour is eager for you to know this!

TRANS> What an example of greatness in service!

- This is Jesus, among us as the one who serves with great zeal to do us good!
 - This is what greatness in His kingdom is all about...
 - And this is the greatness He wants for all of us...
 - He is establishing a whole kingdom where everyone will have this kind of greatness!
 - Don't you want to have this greatness my friends?

- Don't you want to love as He loves?
 - Don't you want to live in kingdom where everybody does this?
- Let me tell you then,

III. Jesus Himself is the source of this greatness—for all of you who come to Him.

A. Look at what He says to His disciples in verse 29-30...

- He has just been talking to them about the kind of greatness that is to characterise His kingdom—
 - this beautiful, marvellous, greatness where the one who is greatest is the servant of all...
 - and then in verse 29 He says to His disciples:
 - Luke 22:29-30: “And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

1. Do you see what He is telling them?

- He is telling them that He is establishing them as leaders (judges or rulers) in a kingdom that is characterised by greatness in service!
 - By each member caring for the other members so much that He gives Himself in sacrificial serve for them!
 - A kingdom so different than the kingdoms of this world!
 - He is going to bestow such a kingdom on them and make them leaders in it!

2. But how could this possibly be so? these men?

- These men have just been arguing about who among them will be the greatest!
 - They have the wrong spirit.
 - How could they possibly become leaders in kingdom that is characterised by laying down ones life for others?
- The answer is right here in our text!
 - Jesus is going to bestow this kingdom upon them!
 - He is going to establish this kingdom with them in it!
 - It is going to be **His** divine work—
 - It will be done on the merits of His sacrifice as we have already seen...

- The New Covenant promises of total forgiveness and of a new heart for God will be given through the Sacrifice of the New Covenant—
 - Jesus Christ crucified for sinners!
 - That is where forgiveness and new life is to come from!
 - It can't possibly come from anywhere else!
 - This is what Jesus is going to do.
 - It is not just that they pull themselves up... it is that Jesus gives them new life!
- And you see that Jesus tells them that in this kingdom, they will eat and drink at His table!
 - When a king speaks that way to His servants, He is telling them that He will provide everything they need to do His work.
 - Remember how Mephibosheth was given permission to eat at David's table?
 - That meant that David would provide for Mephibosheth that he might live.
 - And Jezebel, the wicked queen, had 450 prophets of Baal who ate at her table and 400 prophets of Asherah—
 - That means that she supported them out of the royal treasury.
 - So here Jesus is saying that He is going to support His disciples—at His table—out of His royal treasury!
 - And what does He provide for them that they might have new life in His kingdom?
 - “This is my body, given for you; This is my blood, shed for the remission of your sins.”
 - Jesus crucified is the source that will fuel them to become great in this kingdom where greatness is measured by giving their lives for others!

B. And I tell you, Jesus Christ crucified is the source for all of you who wish to enter this glorious kingdom—His kingdom!

- For all of you who wish to love the way Jesus loves, but find that sin is present with you... who, him???
- For all of you who wish to draw near to God, but know that you need to be forgiven and cleansed...

- Jesus has been sacrificed my brothers and sisters!
 - He is the bread and wine of the New Covenant!
 - Come! Eat and drink until you are filled!
 - Look to Him as crucified for you...
 - Look with faith and you will be brought into this glorious kingdom to live by His grace and provision forever and ever!
 - God will pardon all your sin because of this sacrifice and His judgement will pass over you in the last day...
 - The Holy Spirit will come and dwell in you, working in you day after day, week after week, year and after year, until you become like Him at the last day...
 - serving with the same love...
 - great in His kingdom!
- What a kingdom!
 - As a congregation of God's people, we are joined together as those who are committed to seek this kingdom together and to eat together at His table, giving thanks to Him as we do.