

DAY 26

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me." (John 11:4)

~~ *Try giving thanks* ~~

The sequence of events in this passage seems strange and unusual. Lazarus was still in his tomb, yet Jesus' thanksgiving preceded the miracle of raising him from the dead. It seems that thanks would only have been lifted up once the great miracle had been accomplished. But Jesus gave thanks for what He was about to receive. His gratitude sprang forth before the blessing had arrived, in an expression of assurance that it was certainly on its way.

Yet in this Scripture passage, there is nothing strange, forced, or unreasonable to the Master's sequence of praise before the miracle. Praise is actually the most vital preparation to the working of miracles. Miracles are performed through spiritual power, and our spiritual power is always in proportion to our faith. – J. H. Jowett

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*Nothing pleases God more than praise as part of our prayer life. I once received a great blessing from this while in China. I received bad news from home, and deep shadows of darkness seemed to cover my soul. I prayed, but the darkness remained. Then one day, I saw a word on the wall of a missionary's home: "Try giving thanks." So I did, and in a moment, every shadow was gone, never to return. Yes, the psalmist was right: "It is good to praise the Lord." (Ps. 92:1). – Henry W. Frost (LC – Aug. 4)*

~~~ *Pray* ~~~

Abba Father,

Thank you, Lord! Please forgive me that I always ask what I need but not much of thanksgiving to You. Thank You, Lord, for helping us to overcome this pandemic. We believe You allow this wrath for a reason. Please remind us and guide us to keep up our thankful heart for your grace. *"Delight yourself in the Lord. He will give you the (holy) desires in your heart."* (Ps. 37:4) Amen.(DC)