A.M.D.G. Thanksgiving Sunday – B Text: Matthew 6: 25-34

 October 11th, 2015

*Matthew 6:25-33The Message (MSG)25-26 “If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.27-29“Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.30-33“If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way God works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how God works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. And you'll find your everyday concerns will be met. Don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. Just live one day at a time."*

2015年10月11号 感恩节主祷文：马太福音六章：25-33节
所以我告诉你们：不要为生命忧虑吃什么，喝什么；为身体忧虑穿什么。生命不胜于饮食吗？身体不胜于衣裳吗？你们看那天上的飞鸟，也不种，也不收，也不积蓄在仓里，你们的天父尚且养活它。你们不比飞鸟贵重得多吗？你们哪一个能用思虑使寿数多加一刻呢？何必为衣裳忧虑呢？你想，野地里的百合花怎么长起来。它也不劳苦，也不纺线。然而我告诉你们：就是所罗门极荣华的时候，他所穿戴的还不如这花一朵呢！你们这小信的人哪！野地里的草今天还在，明天就丢在炉里，神还给它这样的妆饰，何况你们呢！所以，不要忧虑说，‘吃什么？喝什么？穿什么？’这都是外邦人所求的。你们需用的这一切东西，你们的天父是知道的。你们要先求他的国和他的义，这些东西都要加给你们了。所以，不要为明天忧虑，因为明天自有明天的忧虑；一天的难处一天当就够了。

**Looking At Life Differently** 换个角度看生活

 Not to be outdone by Janet, I thought I would begin this morning with a Thanksgiving chuckle:

 不止简尼特会讲笑话，今天我也想讲个感恩节笑话：

*Martha had a parrot called Brutus. Now the only problem with Brutus was that he swore and cussed something terrible.  Martha was having her in-laws over for Thanksgiving - so she decided to try to train Brutus quickly not to swear.Just before her Mother-in-law was due, Brutus cussed terribly, so Martha put him in the freezer for 2 minutes to literally cool off.  Then she opened the door and took out the parrot along with the turkey.*

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*'And have you learned your lesson about cussing?' Martha asked the parrot.*

*Brutus the parrot took one look at the dead turkey and said: 'I sure have.  But I have one I have a question, "What did the turkey do?" '*

玛莎的宠物鹦鹉名叫布鲁特斯。布鲁特斯有个毛病就是爱诅咒别人。玛莎感恩节要请她的公公婆婆来吃饭。她决心尽快训练布鲁特斯不再诅咒别人。玛莎的婆婆就快到了，布鲁特斯仍在可怕地诅咒着。玛莎不得不把布鲁特斯放进冰柜里两分钟，给他降降温，让他冷静。然后她打开冰柜，把布鲁特斯和火鸡一起拿出来。

她问鹦鹉：“这下你吸取教训、不诅咒别人了吗？”

布鲁特斯看了一眼死了的火鸡，说：“我的确吸取教训了。但是我有个问题：'火鸡到底做了什么坏事而被处死了？”

I had coffee with a colleague the other day, and we were reflecting a bit on Thanksgiving – bemoaning the fact that – in some ways – there seems to be a bit of hypocrisy about the way we celebrate. Like Christmas – on Thanksgiving, we focus so much attention on one day – making a point of being generous with giving to those less fortunate, gathering families together, and giving thanks to God. But what about the rest of the year? Having said that, however - Thanksgiving ***does*** play an important role for all of us. It calls us back to reflect on the things for which we are thankful – and it causes us to stop for a moment and look at life differently.

前些天我和一位同事一起喝咖啡，我们一起探讨了一下感恩节。从某种程度上讲，感恩节是有些虚伪的，我们为此感到悲哀。跟圣诞节一样，仅仅在感恩节这一天，我们对那些不幸的人特别慷慨、我们与家人团聚、我们对上帝献上感恩。但是一年中其它的日子呢？话虽这么说，但感恩节对我们大家的确很重要，它提醒我们思考那些要感恩的事情、它让我们至少驻足片刻去换个角度看生活。

Look at the letters **GODISNOWHERE** for a moment. What do you see? You can actually read the letters in two ways: *God is now here* OR *God is nowhere.* There’s a vast difference in meaning, isn’t there – depending on how you look at it!

GODISNOWHERE, 当你看到这串文字时，你怎么解读？事实上确有两种读法：God is now here (上帝就在这里）；或者 God is nowhere（上帝哪儿也不在）。南辕北辙，对吗？就看你怎么看了。

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Now let’s look at the next word ….. **RESPONSIBILITY** What comes to mind when we think of the word ‘responsibility’? Perhaps we think about credit or blame – and in: ‘*he or she is responsible’*. Or perhaps a sense of obligation comes to mind – as in: ‘*it’s your responsibility’*.

If I were to suggest to you a sentence that goes something like this: *“She is responsible for today’s Thanksgiving dinner* …” - you could take several meanings from that.

- she is a good cook;

- she is a bad cook;

- and of course – no matter how she cooks – it is her job or task to make sure that the turkey is ready and the pumpkin pie is made – and everything for the dinner is looked after.

我们再來看一个词：responsibility责任。“责任”这个词对你意味着什么？ 当我们说“由他/她负责”时，是对他/她的信任还是责备？我们说“这是他/她的职责”，差不多像说这是他/她的义务。假设我对你说“今晚的感恩节晚餐由她负责”，你对这话可能会有不同的诠释：
-她很会做饭；
-她做饭很糟糕；
-不管她做饭好不好，感恩节晚餐是她的工作和任务，到时候火鸡和南瓜派都得烤好。

But there is also another way of looking at the word **RESPONSIBILITY –** a way which is at the root of most thanksgiving feasts – from the Jewish feast of thanksgiving – Succoth – mentioned in the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures – to the thanksgiving feast we celebrate in Canada this weekend.Instead of a single word **RESPONSIBILITY** – let’s separate it into 2 words:

‘*response*’ and ‘*ability*’. In other words – an ability to respond with thanksgiving to life as it is given to us each day from the hand of God. What we are talking about goes beyond a one day celebration or feast – to an *attitude of faith*. Our ancestors in the faith – from Sarah to Mary, and from Abraham to Jesus – were all convinced that God is the source of everything. And that by graciously giving all things to us – God provides us with a ‘*response – ability’*- an ability to respond to God’s love and grace in a way that will show in our lives the abundance and wholeness God intends for us – and that God intends for our neighbours and our world.

但我们对responsibility责任这个词还可以有另一种诠释，从旧约，即希伯来圣经中提到的犹太人感恩节晚餐Succoth，到这个周末我们加拿大人的感恩节晚餐，这种诠释才是感恩节的根本。
我们不把responsibility作为一个词来看，而把它一分为二成两个词：response和ability，换句话说就是：感恩上帝赐予我们的、每天的生活，并做出回应的能力。我们要说的是：将感恩节一天的庆祝和晚餐扩大到信仰的层面。从萨拉到玛丽、从亚伯拉罕到耶稣，我们这些虔诚的祖先都确信上帝是一切之源。当上帝丰盛地赐予我们一切时，也给了我们回应上帝之爱和仁慈的能力。有了这样的能力，我们的生命才能丰盛和完全，这是上帝对我们、对我们的邻居、对我们这个世界的意愿。

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Our scripture today from the gospel of Matthew points us to two things that help us to be able to develop this attitude of ‘*response-ability*’ or thanksgiving towards life – a matter of perspective, and the setting of priorities.

今天我们诵读的这段马太福音经文，给了我们两点启示，以帮助我们培养“回应的能力”，也就是对生活的感恩：一是如何看待生活，二是生活中什么最重要。

Often times – our response toward life depends on our perspective – how we choose to see things.

通常，我们对生活的回应取决于我们如何看待生活，即我们选择如何去看事情。

 Take for example the man from Budapest, who goes to his rabbi and complains, *"Life is unbearable. There are nine of us living in one room. What can I do?"*

The rabbi answers, "*Take your goat into the room with you*."  The man in incredulous, but the rabbi insists. "*Do as I say and come back in a week*."

 A week later the man comes back looking more distraught than before.  "*We cannot stand it," he tells the rabbi. "The goat is filthy."*

The rabbi then tells him, "*Go home and let the goat out. And come back in a week."*

A week later - the man returns to the rabbi, exclaiming, "*Life is beautiful. We enjoy every minute of it now that there's no goat -- only the nine of us."*

有个故事讲一个从布达佩斯来的人，去找他的犹太牧师诉苦：“我不能忍受这样的生活！我们九个人住在一间房子里！我可怎么办啊？” 牧师回答说：“让你的山羊也住到屋子里来”，这人怀疑牧师是不是说错了，牧师坚持说“按照我说的去做，一周以后再回来找我。一周后该名男子回来，他显得比以前更心急如焚。 “我们无法忍受了 ，“他告诉犹太牧师 “山羊太脏了。” 犹太牧师然后告诉他 ，“回家把山羊放出来，一周后再回来。”一周后 ，该男子返回找犹太牧师，宣称，“生命是美丽的。 我们现在享受生命着每一分钟 ， 现在没有山羊——只有 我们9个人。”

Developing an attitude of ‘response –ability’ and ‘thanksgiving’ toward life is a matter of perspective – of choosing the way we look at things. In today’s gospel reading – Jesus urges us to look at life from the perspective of one day at a time. In a wonderful paraphrase from Eugene Peterson’s ‘The Message’ version, we hear these words:*What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way God works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how God works …… Don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. Just live one day at a time."* Perspective – choosing the way we look at things.

培养一种“ 回应能力”和“感恩”的态度是我们对人生的视角 --是我们看待事物的方式的选择。 在今天的福音读 -- 耶稣敦促我们看待生活要从一天一天的角度出发 。

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尤金.彼得森的现代英语版的圣经中的有一段写的很精彩，我们听听怎么说的: 我在这里试图做的是让您放松身心，不应只想着索取 ， 因此您可以对上帝的给予做出回应。 不知道上帝和上帝所做工的方式的人们会大惊小怪这些东西 ，但你知道上帝和上帝如何工作 ... ... 请不要对明天可能或不可能发生的事情过于紧张。 上帝会帮助您处理任何可能出现的困难的事情。 只活在当下这一天的时间。”视角---选择我们看待事物的方式。

But if our ‘response-ability’ as a faith-filled people calls us to look at life from a different perspective – and to choose to trust that God is working in our lives …. our ‘response-ability’ also calls us to set our priorities on those things that are really important. That’s what Jesus was talking about when he spoke of the birds of the air and the flowers of the field – and ended by saying:*“Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you as well.”*

Or as we hear it in the ‘Message’ paraphrase – “*Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. And you'll find your everyday concerns will also be met as well.”*

作为一个有信仰的人们，但如果我们的“回应能力”召唤我们从不同的角度来看待生命 -- 那我们要选择就是信任上帝在我们生命中所做的一切...... 我们的“回应能力”也召唤我们去把生命中最重要的事情放在首位。这就是耶稣所说到的空中的鸟和地上的花 -- 在结束时说 : “你们要先求他的国和他的义，这一切都必加给你们。”或当我们听到在（尤金.彼得森）现代英语版的圣经中——“把生命沉浸在神的现实 , 神的倡议、神的规定中。 您将发现你每天所关心的都得到应许*。*”

Our ‘response-ability’ - our ability to respond to life with thanksgiving - is all about perspective and priorities. And children are often the ones who remind us of this. In a 1992 edition of Redbook magazine, the comedic writer, Erma Bombeck told this story: *“An estimated 1.5 million people are living today after bouts with breast cancer. Every time I forget to feel grateful to be among them, I hear the voice of an eight-year-old named Christina, who had cancer of the nervous system. When asked what she wanted for her birthday, she thought long and hard and finally said, "I don't know. I have two sticker books and a Cabbage Patch doll. I have everything!"* And she concludes*, “You know - the kid is right.”*

我们的“ 回应能力”——我们用感恩回应生命的能力——是所有有关我们对事物的观点和优先选择。 儿童往往是经常给我们提醒的群体。 在 1992 年版的红皮书杂志 ， 喜剧作家 Erma Bombeck 讲过这个故事 : “估计有 150 万人在发现乳癌后仍生活在今天。 每次当我忘记感谢我是他们中的一员 ，我总听到 一名八岁叫Christina的声音，她患有中枢神经系统的癌症。 当记者问她想要的生日礼物是什么 ，她仔细地想了很长时间， 最后说 ，“我不知道。 我有两个贴纸书和一个的卷菜心娃娃。 我什么都有了 ! ”Erma说 ， “你知道的——孩子是对的”。

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And a similar voice of wisdom comes from a 12 year old boy named David was born without an immune system. He underwent a bone marrow transplant in order to correct the deficiency. Up to that point he had spent his entire life in a plastic bubble in order to prevent exposure to common germs, bacteria, and viruses that could kill him. He lived without ever knowing human contact. When asked what he'd like to do if and when released from his protective bubble, he replied, "*I want to walk barefoot on grass, and touch my mother's hand."*

和类似的智慧声音来自一名 12 岁的男孩名为大卫,他出生时就没有了免疫系统。 他进行了骨髓移植手术 , 以纠正的缺陷。 直到骨髓移植前，为了保持他的生命，他要整天生活在塑料泡沫 以防止暴露于常见的病菌、细菌和病毒。 他无法和其他人联系。 当问到他如果从保护他的塑料泡沫中出来，他最想要做的是什么， 他回答说 ， “我要赤脚走在草地上，我要摸摸妈妈的手。”

Jesus is reminding us this morning – as people of faith – that thanksgiving is our ‘*response-ability’* and depends on our perspective and priorities:

- looking at life differently and trusting in God who walks with us through our days – and in all the ups and downs of life;

– and in setting our priorities on what is important and what is not.

今天早上耶稣提醒我们——作为有信仰的人——感恩 , 是我们的“ 回应 能力” ， 取决于我们看待事物观点和处理事情的优先顺序 :

--不同视角看待生活，相信上帝，上帝会和我们走过每一天，在我们生命任何起起伏伏的时刻。-- 和设置我们的优先事项，什么是重要的、什么是不。

*Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. And you'll find your everyday concerns will be met. Don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. Just live one day at a time."*

“把生命沉浸在神的现实 , 神的倡议、神的规定中。 您将发现你每天所关心的都得到应许*。*不要为明天能否发生的事情而烦恼”

May it be so. Amen 它是如此。 阿们。