

In this thanksgiving season we are reminded of our blessings.



35Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36(As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") 37No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. Romans 8:35-37

Five Kernels of Corn

This year in preparation for our Thanksgiving meal, I came across a story of the Pilgrims' first winter in New England. After getting off the boat on December 11, 1620, the Mayflower pilgrims were unprepared for the difficult winter. At one point during the "starving season" as it became known, legend has it that the daily ration was 5 kernels of corn and a few ounces of brackish water. Because of such challenging conditions, at the end of that first year, only 53 of the 104 who had originally left England were still alive.

This small daily ration is especially punctuated in the midst of the abundant bounty represented at myriads of tables across our nation. In response to reading about a family who started out their Thanksgiving meal each year by having five kernels of corn on the plates of each person present, I asked Jess if we could do the same this year. It served as a tangible reminder to those around our table of our blessings, but also the hardships and challenges of many others. In light of such a challenging story, I realize I have not encountered much difficulty. My hope is that if I do, that I ultimately would not nurse an offense with God or shrink back from connecting with Him or His people. Instead my prayer is that difficulty and challenge would only push me deeper into Him and the promise of a coming time of no more tears, sorrow, or pain.

Father we thank You for Your abundant bounty in our lives. We know You don't love us any more than others who struggle with intense hardship or a lack of provision. May You give us hearts of compassion to see others the way You see them and to be filled with a joyous endurance in the midst of greater difficulty. We thank You for Your goodness in our lives and pray that You would use us for Your glory to build Your kingdom here.