

**Sun., Nov. 21** - Stewardship 3, Church Conference, Thanksgiving Sunday

Memory Verse: "Give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make His deeds known to all people!" -Psalm 105:1

Reading of Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Message: "Parable of the Turkey"

Scripture: Psalm 103:1-5

Blurb: Turkeys are for eating on Thanksgiving, right? But this Sunday turkeys will also show us how to develop biblical thanksgiving. Come for an all-ages Parable of the Turkey and "gobble" up biblical truths that "stuff" us with appreciation and create in us attitudes of gratitude!

***[Recorded Worship Beginning]***

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor David

"Give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make His deeds known to all people!" -Psalm 105:1

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

***[Live Worship Beginning]***

**GATHERING SONG:** *His Mercy Is More* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Pastor David

"Give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make His deeds known to all people!" -Psalm 105:1

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*Chainbreaker*

*Good, Good Father*

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

***[Both Recorded & Live Worship]***

**GROW MOMENT:** Stewardship -Teresa Gruber

**READING OF SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 -Pastor Cassi, recording; Duane Dittberner, live  
**Paul calls the Church, the community of God’s children, the Body of Christ. Each person is different, but because of those differences, each person is important. 1 Corinthians 12, 12-27,**

**12 Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. 13 We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. 14 Certainly the body isn’t one part but many. 15 If the foot says, “I’m not part of the body because I’m not a hand,” does that mean it’s not part of the body? 16 If the ear says, “I’m not part of the body because I’m not an eye,” does that mean it’s not part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. 19 If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? 20 But as it is, there are many parts but one body. 21 So the eye can’t say to the hand, “I don’t need you,” or in turn, the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” 22 Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. 23 The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren’t presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. 24 The parts of our body that are presentable don’t need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor 25 so that there won’t be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it. 27 You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.**

**[LIVE WORSHIP ONLY] PRAYERS** -Pastor Andrew

**MESSAGE: Parables of Faith: The Parable of the Turkey**

**PP#1:** Parables of Faith: The Parable of the Turkey

“Let my whole being bless the Lord and never forget all His good deeds: how God ... satisfies you with plenty of good things...” -Psalm 103:2-5

### **1. Introduction**

Parables of Faith: The Parable of the Turkey.

Psalm 103:2-5, “Let my whole being bless the Lord and never forget all His good deeds: how God ... satisfies you with plenty of good things...”

**PP#2:** *Image for Thanksgiving*

### **2. Thanksgiving**

This Thursday is, of course, what holiday? [Thanksgiving!]

Thanksgiving is a national holiday where we are all called to stop and give thanks

Giving thanks to God

For the harvest and all the good that we enjoy

This is also a much older, biblical calling on God’s people

We are to always be thankful people, always seeing what's good, noticing it, appreciating it  
 To see our blessings, counting them out, creates joy in us, changes us: makes us positive and holy  
 So, today, we're using the Parable of the Turkey to grow us in gratitude

**PP#3:** *Image of turkeys in the wild, not looking too pretty or beautiful*

### 3. Turkeys

Now, turkeys have become a symbol of Thanksgiving

Most widely eaten food on Thanksgiving, along with other fall harvest foods

This year my family is going to try pickled crab apples!

Turkeys are indigenous to North America

And that's why Ben Franklin proposed they be declared our "National Bird"

But turkeys are only really attractive in a roaster!

They are rather ugly creatures, with that weird red warble

But they can have a beautiful tail when spread

But usually to see one, they are not good looking

They are fairly dumb birds - it's surprising they've survived national selection!

They walk and move weirdly, if you've ever watched them. They can't fly, really, either!

Even their name is used as an insult - calling someone a turkey means stupid or failure

Only positive use of turkey is either in bowling, referring to three strikes (but even that turns on three *strikes*, usually a bad thing) or in "talking turkey," which comes from the thanksgiving feast of finally getting to the main food

**PP#4:** *Image of Sandra Talbot*

### 4. We are turkeys?

So, maybe we can see ourselves...just a bit...as turkeys:

A bit awkward, kinda strange, looking a bit weird, not always graceful or successful

In fact, a local author, Sandra Talbot from East Bethel (in home church for Gary & Sue LaVigne and Cassi Betker), wrote a children's book about a hapless turkey who really wasn't too glad to be a turkey: *I Don't Wanna Be a Turkey*

She came for our craft sale last month and did a book signing at our church!

In her book, we see ourselves like the little turkey, who takes a good look at himself and is not too impressed with what he sees

Let's ask Miss Sue to read the book and see what the little turkey is thinking, shall we?

**PP#5:** *Image of Sandra Talbot's book, I Don't Wanna Be a Turkey*

*Image from:* <https://www.amazon.com/Dont-Wanna-Be-Turkey-Yourself/dp/0999814192>

### 5. Book: *I Don't Wanna Be a Turkey* [Sue reads from the Puppy through the Bear]

Puppy - Gets to play with kids (Turkeys don't get to do that!)

Horse - Run fast (Wouldn't that be awesome? Turkeys are slow and wobble!)

Owl - Knows answers (It would be great to be smart and know answers, wouldn't it?)

Green Turtle - Carry his home wherever he goes (would always be home - take a nap whenever!)

Kitten - Cuddle with kids (Doesn't that sound like fun! What kid wants to cuddle with a turkey?)

Bear - Eat all day (That would be awesome, right? Always getting to eat!)

**PP#6: Parable of the Turkey**

## 1. Compare scare

“We do not classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves...they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another....” -2 Corinthians 10:12

**6. The Compare Scare**

Let's stop there a minute. Do you see what's going on?

The little turkey—remember, just like us—is really wishing he could be something else.

He's looking at all the other wonderful animals and seeing what makes each of them wonderful! The puppy is cute and playful. The horse runs fast. The owl is so smart. The bear gets to eat all the time.

The turkey is caught in “the compare scare!”

He's looking at what makes the other animals amazing, and comparing that to what he CAN'T do I call this “The Compare Scare” because comparing yourself to others is always scary!

When you look, you will always find someone else better than you at everything

Even the things you're good at, there are others who are better

A. The Compare Scare is us looking *at others* - our focus is on others, & that's a problem right there!

B. It is looking at, noticing, what they *are better at*

C. Comparing it against what we are *not* good at

This little turkey—like us, remember?—gets so sad because all he can see is how these other animals are so amazing in so many ways, and he is not

Which is really so unfair, right? But we all do this, don't we?

Wherever we look we see people who are better than us: better looking, have more money, seem so smart, have all the right friends, have better families, have more exciting lives, know how to do those things, get the promotions, get noticed, seem so important, have all the fun

But notice The Compare Scare here: you're comparing their strengths against your weaknesses And that's scary, and unfair!

Jesus talks about the Pharisees who love to go around all puffed up because they believe they are better than everyone else, and they go around comparing themselves all the time. And Jesus says that they already get their reward - the praise of others.

Paul tells the Christians to *not* do this!

2 Corinthians 10:12 “We do not classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves...they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another....”

So, little turkeys, beware the compare scare!

**PP#7: Image of Sandra Talbot's book, I Don't Wanna Be a Turkey**

Image from: <https://www.amazon.com/Dont-Wanna-Be-Turkey-Yourself/dp/0999814192>

**7. Book: *I Don't Wanna Be a Turkey* [Sue reads the book from Cardinal through Lion]**

Cardinal - Sings to make people happy (Aren't you jealous of those with the gift of music?)

Otter - Swim fast and far (I feel this way when I watch the Olympics!)

Butterfly - Brightly colored and fly from flower to flower (So beautiful! Reminds me I'm plain.)

Mouse - Hide from everyone (Sometimes this is very attractive, isn't it? I want to do this!)

Lion - Big mane, big, strong (Or so mighty, like the lion, always in charge and doing fine!)

**PP#8:** *Image of a team (all same uniform) of very differently looking players, with a cross overhead*

### **8. Look up to see how each one is unique and important**

So the poor little turkey is so sad because he is not like the other animals.

On the back of the book, it says, “Turkey isn’t happy being himself. He wants to be a dog, a cat, a horse...anything but a turkey! Can God help Turkey learn to love himself just as he is?”

So, the parable here, when thinking about yourself and who you are,

Is to stop comparing yourself to others!

Stop looking at others!

Instead, look up to God, who made you!

You may not understand why you are the way you are

Others may not value you, your strengths, or your abilities

But God made you this way on purpose!

We are different, yes, on purpose! We are DIFFERENTLY ABLED!

If everyone were good at brain surgery, who would make our cars go?

If everyone were strong, who would handle the delicate stuff?

If everyone were good with people, who would take care of spreadsheets?

We heard in the passage from 1 Corinthians that we are all different parts of the Body of Christ

We each have a different, but equally important, role!

“If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to hearing?” (1 Cor. 12:17a)

Well, our little hero, the turkey, finally stops *looking around*, and instead, *looks up*!

He looks to God, who helps him see just how special he is, just the way he is.

**PP#9:** *Image of Sandra Talbot’s book, I Don’t Wanna Be a Turkey*

*Image from:* <https://www.amazon.com/Dont-Wanna-Be-Turkey-Yourself/dp/0999814192>

### **9. Book: *I Don’t Wanna Be a Turkey* [Sue reads the last page]**

“I’ve changed my mind. I do wanna be a turkey. I have fluffy, white feathers and can strut around the farm all day. And I’m perfect just the way I am because God made me. God has a special plan for my life, and I’ll be the best turkey I can be. God made you special, too!”

**PP#10:** Parable of the Turkey

1. Compare scare

2. Obsess @ your success

“I praise you [O God] because I am fearfully and wonderfully made....” -Psalm 139:14

### **10. Obsess about your success**

The little turkey—and us, too!—learned to look up to God and trust that God made him special, just the way he was!

And when he did, he could finally see some good things about himself.

He saw that he had beautiful white fluffy feathers

He saw that he had a wonderful home and got to strut around all day

He saw that God had a plan for his life, even if it didn’t include being strong, or fast, or musically inclined

He started noticing what was good in him, and what he had that was good

He changed his focus: to stop obsessing about others, and started to obsess about his success

The Bible says that like the little turkey, God made you special!

In Psalm 139, it says, “13 For you [O God] created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made... all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” (139:13-16)

When we see ourselves as one of God’s specially made treasures, we can finally focus on what we see in ourselves that is good!

**PP#11: Parable of the Turkey**

1. Compare scare
2. Obsess @ your success
3. Attitude of gratitude

“Let my whole being bless the Lord and never forget all His good deeds: how God ... satisfies you with plenty of good things...” -Psalm 103:2-5

**11. Attitude of gratitude**

And here is where the parable of the turkey gives us the biblical key to thanksgiving!

When we stop looking at everyone else and all that they have and enjoy...

When we instead look up to God and see Him as our Maker, Savior, Giver of all good things...

When we start obsessing about our successes and abilities and blessings...

Then the Holy Spirit is able to work true gratitude within us, gratitude fueled by joy!

Thanksgiving doesn’t just happen! We are broken, sinful creatures who dwell on the wrong things

It is when we give our focus to God that God can then give us a different way of seeing,

And seeing all the ways we are blessed—noticing them, counting them, obsessing about them,

Allows God to work in us a changed attitude that is now focused on gratitude!

**PP#12: Psalm 103:1-5**

- 1 Let my whole being bless the Lord!  
Let everything inside me bless his holy name!
- 2 Let my whole being bless the Lord  
and never forget all his good deeds:
- 3 how God forgives all your sins,  
heals all your sickness,
- 4 saves your life from the pit,  
crowns you with faithful love and compassion,
- 5 and satisfies you with plenty of good things  
so that your youth is made fresh like an eagle’s.

**12. Psalm 103:1-5**

Turn to Psalm 103.

It erupts in this attitude of gratitude:

- 103:1 Let my whole being bless the Lord!  
Let everything inside me bless His holy name!
- 2 Let my whole being bless the Lord [why? Because of all He has done for us!]  
and never forget all His good deeds:
- 3 how God forgives all your sins,  
heals all your sickness,

- 4 saves your life from the pit,  
crowns you with faithful love and compassion,  
5 and satisfies you with plenty of good things [O give thanks!]  
so that your youth is made fresh like an eagle's.

**PP#13** *Image of a paper turkey tail feather like in the first slide image, with:*

Back side: 2 things good about you

Front side: 2 things you're thankful for

### **13. Closing**

Let's do this! Let's use the Parable of the Turkey to bless the Lord for all His goodness!

Up front are two turkeys who are missing their tail feathers!

Their tail feathers are in your bulletin! Take out your feathers, and a pen.

On the back side, write down two ways that God has made you amazing

Two ways that you are good, have a skill, ability, or superpowers. What are you good at?

Write that down.

On the front side, write down two things you are thankful for

Two blessings in your life, gifts you have received from God, what you enjoy

Then, during our closing song—or after worship—I want you to come up to one of the two turkeys and put your tail feather on (And, since you're modest, you can put the two ways you know you're awesome toward the back, but put what you're thankful for facing out.)

We'll create here thanksgiving turkeys: not the ones you eat, but ones that will strut our blessings

Two "gobblers of gratitude!"

That will help create in us, attitudes of gratitude!

So, let us give thanks!

Amen.

**[RECORDED WORSHIP ONLY] PRAYERS: Giving Thanks** -Pastor David

**[LIVE WORSHIP ONLY] CLOSING SONG: O Give Thanks!** -Sanctify

**OFFERING:** -Pastor David

-Give of your monies to God's work through this church. You can give in person, mail it in, drop it off or, most conveniently, you can make an electronic transfer or a debit card payment on the church website or by using the "square" on the bulletin.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** -Pastor David

Church Conference following worship

Wednesday night: NO! Meal or Groups (Thanksgiving Eve)

Next Sunday's message: First Sunday of Advent: A Year with Luke: The Coming!

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

"Give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make His deeds known to all people!" -Psalm 105:1

**BENEDICTION** -Pastor David