



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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www.mountainstreamchurch.com

## UNRECOGNIZED BLESSINGS

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Numbers 21:5*  
 "We loathe this worthless food."

**W**e loathe this worthless food!

This statement reveals a tragic descent from awe to insolence when people encounter unrecognized blessings. This scathing comment was not a review of some insipid local dish. This was the Israelites' crude insult to a staple supplied by God Himself in miraculous fashion. They had forgotten the tremendous blessing they were receiving even though the evidence was staring them right in the face.

Shortly after the Israelites' triumphant departure from Egyptian slavery following God's exploits on their behalf, God provided manna in response to their anguished cries for food (Exodus 16). The path to the Promised Land meandered through a harsh, unforgiving wilderness and food was often scarce. After the Israelites complained, He provided manna

in miraculous fashion. Each morning this light bread would appear on the ground surrounding the Israelites' camp. Each family was free to gather as much as it needed for the day. By the time the sun rose fully over the land, the manna would disappear only to reappear again the next morning. This daily miracle should have been a constant reminder to the Israelites of God's abiding presence and care.

However, like most humans, the Israelites soon lost their awe for this predictable miracle. The regular experience of the miracle turned it to something ordinary in their eyes. They may even have begun to develop a sense of entitlement. The manna was supposed to be there. They deserved this. Its regularity and predictability created in their minds a disconnect from the God who was directly providing for them. It did not take them long after that to begin to scrutinize and criticize God's provision. And of course, it was but a short step from there to outright insolence against God. "We loathe this worthless food." Thus, they declared God's provision – and by extension God Himself – to be useless and insufficient for their needs. Instead of thanking Him for His divine provision amid their inhospitable and hostile circum-

stances, they devolved into outright insolence.

How often have we sneered at God: We loathe this worthless \_\_\_\_\_? We think we deserve better than what God has graciously and generously provided. Our sense of gratitude becomes displaced by a spirit of dissatisfaction and ingratitude. We are capable of such atrocities only when we fail to recognize how greatly God is blessing us every day. There is so much we take for granted. The sun faithfully rising each day. Our awakening from overnight sleep. Our godly spouse. Recovery from a serious illness. Rather than being thankful we fuss that it took too long. We insist that God's blessings are nothing more than mundane at best.

Over this Thanksgiving season, may God open our eyes to the marvels of His consistent blessings upon us and deliver us from the tragedy of unrecognized blessings. May we cry out like the psalmist David: How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand." (Psalm 139:17-18).

God bless you,

Pastor James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
**TUE @ 7 PM**

**NOV 21**

Join us via Zoom video  
 Please contact Pastor James for log on information at [rcantio@gmail.com](mailto:rcantio@gmail.com)

**YOUTH GROUP**  
**FRI @ 6:45 PM**

**NOV 24**

In-person at church.  
 For teens ages 13 and over

**EVENING SERVICE**  
**1st & 3rd**  
**SUN @ 6 PM**

**DEC 3 & DEC 17**

Join us in-person at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
**SUN @ 11 AM**

**NOV 26**

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service  
 Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**SUN @ 11 AM**

**NOV 26**

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.



### Happy Thanksgiving!

- Explore Mountain Stream classes for those interested in becoming members or just finding out more about our church continue next Sunday @ 10 am. Please sign up at the Information Counter to attend.
- Living Hope Baptist Church is hosting a free Mental Health Conference under the theme: "Embracing Hope this Season," with Dr. James Meyer on December 2. You may register at: <https://livinghopepoconos.com/events>.
- If you would like to supply a Christmas gift for a Nursing Home resident, you may sign up at the Information Counter or contact Tom Watson for more information.
- Nominations for Church Officers for 2024 will be on December 10th. Please see the Information Center for more information and be praying about whom God would have you nominate
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:15pm at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Bible Reading plans for 2023 are available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.

### QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!