

## “The Teacher of Thanks”

by  
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**What** This scene, which could also be performed as a Readers Theater, reminds us how Jesus set great examples of how and when to give thanks.

**Themes:** Thanksgiving, Thankful, Praise

**Who** Reader 1 (Narrator)  
Reader 2  
Reader 3  
Reader 4 (Jesus)

**When** Present

**Wear  
(Props)** Contemporary clothing (Black folders if done as Reader’s Theater)

**Why** Matthew 14:13-21, Psalm 136:1, 4, John 11:1-43, Mark 14:12-23

**How** Narrator stands to one side. Readers and Jesus Reader interact in another area of the stage. Parts may be memorized or done as a Reader’s Theater.

**Time** Approximately 2 minutes

*Readers enter and address the audience.*

**Reader 1:** Thanksgiving is something we are called to do every day. Jesus set a great example for us in how and when to share thanks to the Father. It was a natural response for him. Is thanksgiving a natural response for you?

**Reader 2:** Jesus, you have shown so much compassion to this crowd.

**Reader 3:** You have healed the sick among them.

**Reader 2:** This is a remote place and it's getting late.

**Reader 3:** You should send the people away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.

**Reader 4:** That isn't necessary...you feed them.

**Reader 2:** But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish.

**Reader 4:** Bring them here to me. *(looking up)* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.

*Pause*

**Reader 2:** Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

**Reader 3:** Could you who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept Lazarus from dying?

**Jesus:** Take away the stone.

**Reader 2:** But Lord, he has been there four days.

**Reader 3:** The smell will be terrible because he is dead.

**Reader 4:** *(looking up)* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.

*Pause*

**Reader 2:** We have prepared the Passover meal as you said.

**Reader 4:** I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me here will betray me.

**Reader 3:** Who would ever do such a thing?

**Reader 2:** Am I the one?

**Reader 4:** Let us share the bread and the cup. (*looking up*) Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. Take and eat, for this is my body. Take and drink, for this is my blood poured out as a sacrifice for many.

**Reader 1:** Jesus faced many instances that we would find tense...such as the pressure to feed thousands or to raise a friend from the grave or to face death on a cross. Jesus' response was never to panic or run, but to turn to the Father in praise and thanksgiving. What are we facing today? Can praise and thanksgiving be a natural response for us?

**All:** (*may invite Congregation*) Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.

*Blackout*