



We have a Kingdom assignment that extends beyond our own holiday schedules and plans. In this message, Pastor Allen Jackson points out how many of us are remarkable leaders in business, technology, sports, and the hobbies we choose. We use our confidence and ability in those areas to impact our surrounding communities in many significant ways. Yet, when we are offered the chance to discuss what we believe about Jesus or share biblical truth, our confidence evaporates. We'll say things like: "You know, I don't pray or know how to talk about my faith. I'm not a Bible scholar." Pastor Allen encourages us to push past this fear and approach the holidays as opportunities to lead with our faith. Let's bring God's hope and encouragement to friends, family members, coworkers, and others in our spheres of influence. During this season of the year, people are especially open to acts of kindness and invitations. Let's be faithful to extend them. After all, the best way to solve the problems we face in our nation is to bring more people into the Kingdom of God. Let's celebrate the holidays by leading with our faith.

I. A LEADERSHIP TEAM

Matthew 16:18 *"...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

Ephesians 1:22–23 *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

Psalms 84:10 *Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.*

****When was a time you felt chosen or called by God to a new role or position? What were the challenges? What role did your faith play as you transitioned into that new assignment?**

A. Rebellion Against the King...Leads to Change

1 Samuel 15:16–19 *"Stop!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night." "Tell me," Saul replied. ¹⁷Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. ¹⁸And he sent you on a mission...¹⁹ **Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?"***

Matthew 21:43–44 *"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."*

Matthew 15:10–14 *Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. ¹¹What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" ¹²Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" ¹³He replied, **"Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."***

****What does leading with your faith mean to you? Describe a time when someone's faith impacted you. How did it encourage you to be more willing to share your faith?**

B. The Church, Under Authority

2 Timothy 4:2–3 *Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³For **the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine.***

Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Galatians 1:6–7 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion (apostasy/falling away) occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

C. Engaged in the Lord's Business

*Matthew 24:44–47 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. ⁴⁵ **“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷ I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.***

****What is one thing you are particularly grateful for today? Name someone in your life you are especially thankful for and explain why.**

II. WHEN GOD IS MOVING...THE POWER OF GRATITUDE

Psalm 34:1–3 I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. ² My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. ³ Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

*Ephesians 5:19–20 Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ **always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Revelation 5:9–13 And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked and heard **the voice of many angels**, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² **In a loud voice they sang:** “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then **I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:** “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

****Where in your life have you struggled with having an attitude of gratefulness and thanksgiving? Why is it worthwhile to practice gratitude? What things can you do to begin practicing gratitude in your daily life?**

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”
(Revelation 5:9-10, 12, 13)