

Thanksgiving / Harvest Festival

The Bible says we should be content in all circumstances, and always thank the Lord for his provision, but sometimes we focus on what we haven't got and feel envy instead of gratitude. *(You may wish to change the news reports to something more current and local – the ones included here were all in the news in 2009)*

Mal. 3:8-12, Mat. 6:25, Phil. 4:6, Phil. 4:12, Heb 13:5.

Scene: Table with a radio on it, playing the song "Count Your Blessings". Michelle walks in with two supermarket shopping bags, turns radio off, and starts unpacking shopping.

Michelle: One, two, three, four, five *(taking carrots out of a bag and counting them)*

(Mark walks on to stage, can't see what Michelle is doing, as he is walking towards her asks:)

Mark: *(cheerily)* Are you counting your blessings?! *(Mark sits down)*

Michelle: *(straight faced)* No, carrots. I've got 5, that should be enough. My mum wants them to make a carrot cake.

Mark: You could combine the two, counting blessings and carrots, by thanking the Lord for carrots!

Michelle: I could do, but I'm not going to. Carrots are disgusting, I don't know why the Lord invented them.

(Mark comments as each following item is unpacked from shopping bag)

Mark: OK, so thank the Lord for chocolate biscuits!

Michelle: They're not the ones I wanted, they'd run out, so these are my second choice

Mark: You could still say thank you

Michelle: I'm not feeling very thankful, didn't you hear me, I said they're not the ones I wanted

Mark: Thank the Lord for your daily bread then...

Michelle: This isn't for me, is it? Do you know how fattening bread is? I've got these rice cakes – and don't even think of asking me to thank God for these. They are not nice, and it's not fair that I should have to eat them, when you can stuff your face with bread!

Mark: Tea! You're British, you have to be thankful for tea!

Michelle: Well I might be if I was allowed to buy the teabags in the gold box, but, no, you prefer the ones in the red box...

Mark: *(sighs)* I'll put the news on *(turns radio on)*

(Michelle continues to quietly unpack shopping, glancing at the radio now and then)

Newsreader: *(speaking through microphone from behind screen)* This is the news at midday:

For the third year in a row the harvest has failed in Kenya. Aid agencies are asking for emergency money and food for the country to prevent mass starvation. The long drought in the nation means that 3.2 million people will need food aid and \$135 million dollars will be needed to feed them. *(Jan 2009)*

In Somalia, one of the UN's largest international relief efforts is under investigation after it emerged that thousands of sacks of food aid were being diverted from starving refugees and openly sold for profit. UN officials say that civil war and the worst drought in a decade have created "near-famine conditions". The World Food Program is charged with feeding 3.5 million Somalis — almost half the population. *(June 2009)*

Meanwhile, in the UK, where 12.4 million people live below the poverty line, food banks are struggling to meet demand as they try to provide boxes of food for those in need. In the past two years Bournemouth Food Bank has fed 1,300 adults and 550 children. *(July 2009)*

Michelle: *(turns radio off)* I suppose tea from the red box isn't that bad...