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November 12, 2017 Dear brothers who are in prison: Soon all of us out here will be celebrating Thanksgiving. You can remember from your youth how it goes, big sales in the stores, families getting together, eating a lot of food mostly wahalote (turkey) and pumpkin pies. It could be a good time with families enjoying football and each other. There might even have been so thanking God for the blessings he has given us personally and this country. The early beginning of the holiday was started this way. Americans trace the Thanksgiving holiday to a 1621 celebration at the [Plymouth Plantation](#), where the settlers held a harvest feast after a successful growing season. Autumn or early winter feasts continued sporadically in later years, first as an impromptu religious observance and later as a civil tradition. [Squanto](#), a [Patuxet](#) Native American who resided with the [Wampanoag](#) tribe, taught the [Pilgrims](#) how to catch eel and grow corn and served as an interpreter for them. Squanto had learned the English language during his enslavement in England. The Wampanoag leader [Massasoit](#) had given food to the colonists during the first winter when supplies brought from England were insufficient. The Pilgrims were saved by the Indians and they thanked God for that. It was later that the white man turned on his saviors. Today a lot of people have turned on our Savior and I thought during this sad time in prison might be a good time to thank God for the blessing he has given you personally. I know holidays in prison are the worst time because you long to be free and home with a family. I will bet you wish you could turn the clock back to a happier time in your life. Maybe you had a happy holiday in your youth. I am sorry that you are not looking forward to a peanut butter sandwich for Thanksgiving. But I am happy for you that you do have things to be grateful for. The most important thing is that you did not die during the sinful (rejection of Jesus) time in your life. Now I know that there are men in prison, who did not do what they were convicted of. But I also know that everyone in prison is guilty of some sin against his fellow man and God. So am I brothers, we are all past sinners. Hopefully we are done with that part of our lives. The worst thing a man can do is to reject God, our true Father. So you all know men who died in a time that they were not close to Jesus, pray for their souls. You however are alive in a place called prison, where a group of men live together in poor conditions with little food and a lot of time on their hands. Well let me tell you what a monastery is like. Men from all walks of life decide to go live in a place with a group of other men, in poor conditions, and not too much good food. They choose to do this in order to get close to God. They spend a lot of their day in silence, and a lot of time praying, just talking to God, listening to God, and being loved by God. It is a hard life and few men can do it, but they choose to do it and live that life out of love. Yes in some monasteries they do make a little wine and beer. Now what do you have to be thankful for. First your life has been spared so that you can save your immortal soul from a real prison for eternity called HELL. Get on your knees and thank God he has saved you repent your sins and asked Jesus to give you faith in HIM. You will be saved and that is why you were born to become children of God. Once you give your heart to Jesus now you can live in peace, yes even in prison. No matter what the circumstances are Jesus is right there next to you to love you and give you peace. BUT YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN HIM. I promise you He is real and He is God and He will take away the pain in your heart and the sadness of your life. Offer your suffering for Him. He was wrongly convicted and executed for you personally. Be grateful and not bitter, life on the outside is full of pain and sorrow too. We have great depression and sadness here during the holidays. People are lost to drugs, alcohol, and hatred. Holidays are a very sad time for many people who are not in jail. I know a lot of folks who are cold and hungry sleeping on the streets. The evil one is responsible for much pain in the world. Fight the temptations of the devil and draw close to God. I promise He is there for you. You will be in paradise someday but for now be Thankful for our Savior. Love michael