177. WHO TOLD YOU? - TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Good morning, Grace Harbor – it's Dan. Happy Tuesday!

After the podcast yesterday, I just kept thinking about all the people we have to be grateful for – particularly those who introduced us to the things we now love.

Brie shared with us the story of her grandmother. She was the one who taught Brie how to bake. Brie had fond memories of time spent in the kitchen together on Sunday afternoons, and now she owns the Fruit of the Earth Bakery and makes the best breads and pastries in town!

I shared the example of getting my love for college football from my dad. And really, it was sports in general. We watched a lot of baseball too, and we spent countless hours in the backyard playing catch.

And if you were able to listen yesterday, you got to talk about people like that in your life too.

Well, as the day went on, so many more names and faces and memories came to mind. I started thinking through all the things I love to do – things I enjoy – and the people I have to thank. Some are the ones who planted the seeds – they tell you about something, or show you something, or invite you to try something for the first time. Then sometimes there are others who water the seed – maybe helping you get better, or encouraging you to keep trying if it didn't click at first.

And now, thanks to those people pouring into our lives, those seeds can bear fruit. We have a skill, we have a favorite activity, or we have a love for something we wouldn't have had otherwise.

And that's another way to approach the practice of gratitude. Think about what your life would be like if that thing you love *wasn't* in your life! What would Brie be doing if her grandmother hadn't taught her to bake? How much excitement and fun would I be missing if my dad hadn't encouraged a love of sports in me? Do you have a favorite series of books or a TV show or a type of music you only know about because someone else shared it with you?

When *I* think about things like that, it only makes me more grateful!

Now, I didn't come up with this idea of planting and watering seeds that bear fruit in our lives. It's actually an image we find in the Bible. And it's not just about things like food or sports or activities. When the Bible uses this image, it's talking about our faith – how we come to know, love, and trust Jesus. And that's probably the thing I'm *most* grateful for!

When Jesus was getting ready to head back to heaven, he told his disciples that they had a job to do – go and tell everyone what they had learned. Tell them about what Jesus did and what he taught. Show people what it looks like to follow Jesus.

And the great news is that they did it! They told a bunch of people – that's like planting the seed. Then the disciples and others supported the new believers and encouraged them as they came to know Jesus and tried to live the kind of life God says is best for us – that's like the watering of the seed. And the Bible finishes off the image by reminding us that God is the one that makes the fruit of faith grow in our lives.

But here's the thing – the people the disciples told had to tell someone too! If they didn't, it would have stopped with them. So, they told someone else. Who told someone else. Who told someone else. And this happened over and over and over again – from generation to generation, all the way to today when someone told me and you.

That long line of people who have received and passed on the faith? They're the saints we remember on All Saints Day!

Yesterday we named people who taught us something we loved, and today I want to focus that a little. I would love for you to take some time to think about who has taught *you* about Jesus and the love that God has for you. Who are the saints who have directly impacted you?

For a lot of us, it may be a family member – maybe even someone listening with you right now! It might be a friend or a teacher or someone at a church. Or maybe someone recommended this podcast to you, and you're starting to learn about God by listening.

Let’s share with each other the people who come to mind, saying thank you to God in our hearts as we do. If you need more time, you can pause the podcast, and I’ll be right here when you get back.

[PAUSE]

Since this is Gratituesday, one thing you could do this week is write a note or draw a picture or send a video to one of the people you named letting them know the impact they’ve had on your life and how much it means to you. I’m sure it’ll make them feel really good.

And if the person you’re grateful for has died, we can still give thanks for them. We can still think about what we would say to them if they were here, we can still make art for them and hang it on the fridge, or we can say thank you to God for what they mean to us.

Ok, let’s close in prayer. If you want to, you can close your eyes and fold your hands.

Dear God, we thank you that you love us, and that you *have* loved us since before you even created the world. And the reason we know that is because someone told us. So thank you too for all those who received the story of faith and passed it on, all the way to us today. Amen.

Ok, Grace Harbor, have a great Tuesday, and I’ll talk to you tomorrow.

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