

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**November 27, 2025**

**DAY OF THANKSGIVING (USA)**

### **The Life-Giving Lesson**

The 2009 Disney movie *The Princess and the Frog* follows a young woman named Tiana, who is pursuing her father's dream of opening a restaurant. She works hard at multiple jobs, night and day, to make this a reality. But her plans and dreams are derailed when she kisses a frog prince and is herself turned into a frog. The two frogs begin a harrowing journey toward their transformation back into humans and learn many life lessons along the way. The biggest lesson for Tiana is that she is missing life by only working. She is missing out on love, laughter, friendship, and joy.

Jesus' admonition "Do not work for the food that perishes" (John 6:27) can be hard to hear for those who work night and day to literally provide sustenance for their families. Certainly, Jesus does not wish anyone to starve to death. Rather, he is pointing us to the same lesson Tiana needed to learn. We are all biological organic matter that requires food and water to sustain life. However, if our only purpose is to exist, we are not living.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus uses bread metaphors to teach about the kingdom of God. The kingdom is often understood as the "afterlife," but the author urges us to focus closer to home, on the realm of God on earth. Here Jesus calls us to work for the kingdom, the life-breath for all creation that is more than just food. The kingdom is a way of living for God, for our neighbor, and for the world to come. What do we strive to live for in life? What aspects of your life are life-giving? On this day of thanksgiving, for what do we give thanks to God?

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.