

# Where Are the Nine? Christ Cleanses Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19)

## Introduction:

### 1. A Man Was Betrayed by a Friend...

- a. And He went to him and asked, "How could you do this to me?"
- b. I helped you up out of the gutter?

I gave you your first job? I lent you money and bailed you out of jail?"

The reply was, "That's true, you did all that. But what have you done for me lately?"

### 2. There's a lot of loud people...

Loud About What They Think... LOUD about What they Want...

Loud About Being Treated Wrong... Or What They Think is Right...

### 3. but very few are loud in their praise of God!

—>Here we find it is only 1 out of 10 who Praise God with thanks!

***Thankfulness is the Faith Force Multiplier that Pleases God***

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## I. THE MIRACLE

### A. THE DESPERATE NEED OF MAN (v.11–13)

#### 1. There are Two Ways to get from Galilee to Jerusalem... [MAP]

- a) The Less Hospitable — but shorter way Near Samaria
- b) The more hospitable — but longer way Down the Jordon river
- c) Jesus would Use Both Ways—Depending on Who Needed His Help Along the way

#### 2. Passing through the border between Samaria & Galilee He enters a village and there's a Group of Lepers Standing afar off...

- a) They kept a distance because Leprosy was so contagious
- b) Of all the diseases of ancient times leprosy was the most feared
- c) **IMAGINE Having Poison Oak all over your body—but it never went away...**  
**—But Leprosy is Worse... More Like a Flesh Eating Disease!**

- d) Even When a Leper was alive—He Was a Dead Man Walking  
and When a Leper Died—He Died Alone — a slow motion death sentence
- e) And Lepers were ostracized from Temple Worship, visiting Synagog, Isolated, alone

#### 3. But They Recognized Jesus by Faith and Asked For Mercy! (v.13)

- a) They Honored Jesus by Faith — calling Him Master
- b) And Jesus Honored Them by Healing Them... ALL of them!

#### 4. These Lepers Did What Jesus Said to Do in Sermon on Mount...

- a) Jesus said, Ask... Seek... Knock... (**Matthew 7:7–8**)
- b) They Recognized their Desperate Need—many do not

### B. THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST (v.14)

#### 1. Jesus Told Them to Fulfill Their Religious Duty to the Law...

- a) To Be Checked by the Priests as God gave Moses instructions for in Leviticus 14
- b) This was Important for the Leper because Once the priest announces they're healed
- c) They would be restored to full social and religious fellowship with Society

#### 2. But They Had to Believe AND Obey the Command of Jesus...

***—As They Went They Were Healed! (v.14)***

### **C. THE SINGLE CASE OF THANKFULNESS TOWARD GOD (v.15-16)**

- 1. All Ten Lepers Were Healed — but only one turned back to thank Jesus**
  - a) But He Didn't JUST Thank Jesus — He Cried Out With a Loud Voice Glorifying God
  - b) Then He Fell Down at Jesus Feet Giving Him Thanks!
- 2. And He Wasn't Even Jewish — He Was a Samaritan...**
  - a) And the Jews and Samaritans Hated Each Other**
    - (1) The Jews Ostracized Samaritans for Having a Corrupted the Mosaical Law
    - (2) The Samaritans Hated the Jews for the Superior attitude that Jews Were the Only People pleasing to God
  - b) But a Common Tragedy Like Leprosy Brings Down Social Barriers**
    - (1) The Way a Flood can cause wolves and lambs to be stranded side by side on a small piece of ground.
- 3. Only One Out of Ten Came Back to Praise God and Thank the Lord...**
  - a) Is it possible that only 1 in 10 Serve God with thankfulness today? —Only God Knows

### **D. THE SADNESS OF CHRIST OVER MAN'S INGRATITUDE (v.17-18)**

- 1. Were There Not TEN Who Were Cleansed? — But where are the Nine?**
  - a) These Lepers Had a Horrible Disease... and Pleaded with Jesus to Heal Them
  - b) Jesus Healed them—but Nine of the 10 Never Even Said Thank you
  - c) I almost hear the sadness in His voice as He contemplated the ingratitude of the 9.
- 2. How can men be so thoughtless and unappreciative of God's favors?**
  - a) What is the Story We Tell Ourselves to Keep Us From Being Thankful?
  - b) What is our Self Talk We Tell Ourselves?
- 3. How Do We Dismiss God's Blessings So Easily? —Is it Possible...**
  - a) One waited to see if the cure was real.
  - b) One waited to see if it would last.
  - c) One said he would see Jesus later.
  - d) One decided that he had never had leprosy.
  - e) One said he would have gotten well anyway.
  - f) One gave the glory to the priests.
  - g) One said, O well, Jesus didn't really DO anything.
  - h) One said, any rabbi could have done it.
  - i) One said, "I was already much improved."
- 4. How Many Excuses Does it take to Keep from Giving Glory to God?**
  - a) It Grieves the Lord When We Are Unthankful For His Blessings
  - b) It Takes Humility to Be Thankful—it takes arrogance to be unthankful

### **E. THE GREATER GIFT OF GRACE FOR 1 MAN'S THANKFULNESS (v.19)**

- 1. 'Your FAITH has made you Well'**
  - a) Because of his Thankful Heart—Jesus gave him a greater gift than physical healing
- 2. Jesus gave him the gift of Grace—he was now complete**
  - a) He was made Clean — Physically and Spiritually Cleansed

*"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and not be poorer but richer for having made it." (A.W. Tozer)*

- 3. This 1 Man Went from a despised Leper to the Richest Man in Samaria!**  
All because He Believed God and Gave God the Glory!

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## II. THE IMPLICATIONS

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So Nine Did Not Return to say Thank you—but One Did—WHY is that?

**A. UNTHANKFUL PEOPLE ARE THINKING ABOUT THEMSELVES**

**—THANKFUL PEOPLE ARE THINKING ABOUT GOD**

1. Nine were thinking about themselves—one was thinking about God
2. Unthankful people are quick to complain and quick to forget  
—they forget God's blessings (2 Peter 1:5–9)

*This Explains Why...*

**B. THANKFUL PEOPLE WORSHIP GOD—UNTHANKFUL PEOPLE DO NOT**

1. **This One Thankful Samaritan Came Back and Praised God**
  - a) He fell Down at the Feet of Jesus in Worship
  - b) They Others Did Not
2. **In the Parable of the Wedding Feast—the King Sent invitations to friends**
  - a) But Those He Invited Were Too Busy and Didn't Want to Come
  - b) I just bought some land... I just got married... I have to work... yada yada
3. **The King Was Angry and told His Servants those who were invited were NOT worthy —> But Why were they Not Worthy?**
  - a) Because They Didn't Care! — They Were Selfish and Had No Thankfulness
4. **Unthankful People Don't Worship God Because They Don't Care about God —They Care About Themselves!**
  - a) And Even If They Showed Up to Worship They'd Just Complain!
  - b) A Person leaving worship service told the preacher—I really didn't like the service
  - c) Preacher: "Thats ok, we weren't worshipping you!"

**C. THANKFULNESS IS REWARDED—UNTHANKFULNESS IS PUNISHED**

1. **All Ten Lepers Had Faith...**
  - a) They all Addressed Jesus as Master... they all cried for mercy...
  - b) They all Believed and Obeyed! —and they all were healed physically
2. **But This One Man's Thankfulness was the Faith Force Multiplier!**
  - a) Only The Man With Thankfulness Praise and Worship to God Was Given Grace!
3. **Throughout the Scriptures—Thankfulness results in Worship but Unthankfulness Results in Wrath...**
4. **Notice How Thankfulness Offers Worship (Ps. 100)**
5. **But Unthankfulness Results in Wrath (Romans 1:18; 21–22)**

**D. UNTHANKFUL PEOPLE ARE UNHAPPY—GRATEFUL PEOPLE ARE GLAD**

- a) **Why Are Unthankful People Unhappy People?**
  - (1) They Can't See Any Good—if there is one thing Bad
  - (2) They Never Say Thank You—Because There's Nothing They're Thankful About
  - (3) They're So High Maintenance that Nothing or No one Can Meet Their Expectations
2. **You may think they are unthankful because they are unhappy... —Not True, They Are Unhappy Because They Are Unthankful**

**a) I Read About a Man who went to a marriage seminar...**

- (1) The speaker asked: "What is leading cause of Marriage problems and Divorce?"  
He raised his hand: "MONEY, SEX and LACK OF COMMUNICATION"
- (2) **WRONG... The Leading Cause of Marriage problems and Divorce is UNMET EXPECTATIONS**

**b) "Because gratitude is the key to happiness, anything that undermines gratitude must undermine happiness. And nothing undermines gratitude as much as expectations. There is an inverse relationship between expectations and gratitude: The more expectations you have, the less gratitude you will have."** (Dennis Prager)

**c) "some people are bitter, not because they do not have anything, but because they do not have everything."**

**3. It Grieves the Lord When We Are Unthankful For His Blessings...**

**Thankfulness is The Will of God For You! (1 Thes. 5:18)**

- a) One evening a christian went to visit a little girl in a children's hospital...
- b) She had a spinal cord problem and was confined to her bed
- c) So the visitor sat by the bed and they both stared out the window.
- d) She asked, would you like to play a game? What kind of Game?
- e) **It's a game I call "stars."** "Every evening when the stars come out I think of all the people I love and all the blessings I have; like my mom, and dad, my dog, my food, and I name each star with one of my blessing."
- f) "That sounds like fun" the visitor said...  
"It is!" said the girl, "the only Problem is there aren't enough stars!"

**4. "It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich." Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

**E. LETS GIVE GOD THE GLORY: 10 THINGS WE CAN BE THANKFUL FOR**

1. Our Heavenly Father is Perfect, He cannot Make a Mistake
2. There is No Possible Scenario in Which God Does Not Win (Is. 46:9-10)
3. That Even if the Mountains fall into the sea, God is on His throne (Ps 46)
4. That God's love and Mercies Never Cease (Lam 3:22-23)
5. That God is with You Even in Your Suffering (Is. 43:2)
6. That God Hears Your Prayers (Ps. 34:15, 17)
7. That God even uses the bad to work for your good (Rom 8:28)
8. Your Affliction is Momentary Compared to your eternal reward (2 Cor 4:17)
9. Jesus Paid Your Debt in Full at the Cross So You Could be Free (Rom 8:1)
10. One Day He Will Wipe Away All Tears from your eyes (Rev 21:4)

**CONCLUSION:**

**"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15)**

1. **Thankfulness to God is the Faith Force Multiplier that Pleases God!**
2. **The Difference Between Being Healed and Being Saved!**
3. **Will You Give God the Glory?**