

# Jesus Cleanses the 10 Lepers

Luke 17:11-19

September 12, 2021

<sup>11</sup> Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. <sup>13</sup> And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" <sup>14</sup> So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup> and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?" <sup>18</sup> Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." **Luke 17:11-19**

**Remember Jews and Samaritans weren't exactly friends. So Jesus, a Jew, was going thru Samaria (v 11). As we know though Jesus wasn't necessarily concerned about cultural norms. He sought to break barriers.**

**Jesus entered a village and the 10 lepers stood far off, why? They were considered unclean by the law. In fact, whenever coming near a group of people they had to yell, "unclean, unclean." (v 12). If you think of outcasts, they were the outcasts of society.**

**The lepers knew enough about Jesus to cry loudly for mercy. They were all healed by their disobedience (2 Kings 5:1-4). (verse 12). They were healed on the way to the Priest, as they went. The Priest was the one who could declare them clean (Lev 13-14).**

**All the lepers were healed physically, only one spiritually. "Only one came back on the way to see the priest when he realized he had been cleansed. He wanted to show his graciousness and thankfulness. By coming to Jesus, the man received something greater than physical healing: he was also saved from his sins. Jesus said, 'Your faith has saved you' (literal translation), the same words He spoke to the repentant woman who anointed His feet (Luke 7:50). The Samaritan's nine friends were declared clean by the priest, but he was declared *saved* by the Son of God! While it is wonderful to experience the miracle of physical healing, it is even more wonderful to experience the miracle of eternal salvation."**<sup>1</sup>

**An unthankful heart is fertile soil for sin<sup>2</sup>**

An unthankful person is never satisfied (broken cistern).

An unthankful person is not appreciative of what they have.

An unthankful person often thinks they are where they are because of themselves.

Romans 1:21

**Thankfulness reorients our heart to the Giver.**

Every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord!

In reorienting our hearts towards Jesus, He helps us ward off temptation.

It's hard, almost impossible, to be truly thankful and negative at the same time.

**How is your gratitude/thankfulness meter?**

*Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!*

**Psalms 107:8, 15, 21 and 31**

What is gratitude? Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines gratitude as the feeling of being grateful and wanting to express thanks, while grateful means feeling or showing thanks because somebody has done something kind for you or has done as you asked.

How often do we remember to give thanks to God for answered prayers or seemingly 'little' blessings? When was the last time you spent time in God's presence only to give Him thanks for blessings in the past, for current blessings and anticipated blessings awaiting us in the future? Do we also thank Him for those very unpleasant situations and dark

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<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe, "Be Series."

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

moments of our lives? I know this sounds difficult and unrealistic, but hey, God commands us to give Him thanks in ALL things.<sup>3</sup>

We are quick to pray but slow to praise.

### **What if we went around as a thankful people?**

The nine experienced external blessing, but only one experienced an internal spiritual blessing in response to his visible and vocal faith and gratitude to God. Many people, even believers, only want physical blessings from the Lord and lose out on the true spiritual blessings that come through worship, praise, and thanksgiving.<sup>4</sup>

“Now Thank We All Our God,” was written by Martin Rinkhart wrote it during the Thirty Years’ War when his pastoral duties were most difficult. He conducted as many as forty funerals a day, including that of his own wife; yet he wrote those beautiful words as a table grace for his family. In spite of war and plague around him and sorrow within him, he was able to give thanks to the Lord from a grateful heart.

*1 Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.*

*2 O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
to keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
of this world in the next.*

*3 All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son and Spirit blest,  
who reign in highest heaven  
the one eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.*

*Psalter Hymnal (Gray), 1987*

### **Prayer Focus:**

**That I would ask God to help be realize how blessed I am and I would continually give thanks!**

**I will remember!**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://virtuedigest.com/gratitude-quotient/>

<sup>4</sup> Evans, T. (2019). *The Tony Evans Bible Commentary* (Lk 17:7–19). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.