

Question: What Motivates the Christian to Please God?

A boy and his lost contact lens...

What the Samaritan Understood

Context – The story of the unworthy servants. Luke 17:7-10

1. A servant works all day long in the field.
2. A question: Does he now get adopted into the family? Offered to sit at the table?
3. No, instead the master will say, serve me while I eat and drink.
4. Jesus says: we are to have that same attitude – that we are just unworthy servants for whom there is no good reason that we should sit at the master’s table.

The Miracle – Leprosy Cured

The Different Responses Between the Nine and the One

Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

What is the only difference given between the one who gave thanks and those who didn’t?

The only difference Jesus gives ☐ The one who gave thanks was a *Samaritan*

What did the Samaritans understand about their relationship with the God of Israel?

For Reflection: Do you take your relationship with God for granted?

The Proper Response to Grace

Falling on Your Face – vs. 16

Genesis 17:1, 3 “When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram... Then Abram fell on his face.”

Numbers 20:6 “Then Moses and Aaron came in from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to them.”

2 Samuel 14:4 “Now when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself and said, ‘Help, O king.’”

So what? Falling on your face means recognizing you are in the presence of someone greater than you, often expecting to receive something from the person in power. It is a sign of honor and worship.

Thanks – vs. 16

Romans 1:21 “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Praise – vs. 18

Jesus’ goal is the glory of the Father which comes from the praise of his thankful creatures

John 17:1 “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you”

Westminster Confession of Faith: “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

What does it look like for us to live a life of thankful praise?

Romans 12:1 – “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice...”

Questions for Personal Study

1. Is God’s love for you your primary motive in serving him, or is there something else?
2. When you think of God’s love for you, what comes into your mind? How do you know he loves you? How did the leper know Jesus loved him?
3. Are there ways you need to be more thankful to God? How can you thank him more often?
4. Would it seem weird to you to “fall on your face” before God? Why or why not? Does your view of how awesome he is need to change in any way?