

Series: Why We Worship

Message Title: The Reward for Worship (part 4)

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Luke 17:15-19

¹⁵ Then one of them, upon seeing that he was cured, turned back, recognizing *and* thanking *and* praising God with a loud voice;

¹⁶ And he fell prostrate at Jesus' feet, thanking Him [over and over]. In addition, he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, Were not [all] ten cleansed? Where are the nine?

¹⁸ Was there no one found to return and to recognize *and* give thanks *and* praise to God except this alien?

¹⁹ And He said to him, Get up and go on your way. Your faith (your trust and confidence that spring from your belief in God) has restored you to health.

Discussion Part 1:

Feel free to read the entire story of the ten lepers here in Luke 17. Talk about the ratio of how many were cured, and how many returned to praise God. One out of ten is not a good percentage, but could it be that that actually represents how unthankful and unwilling we are as humans to worship God? Being thankful and expressing it are two different things. Talk about that.

S.Marshall thoughts:

Jesus is extremely aware of who is thankful and who is absent from recognizing God. At the end of it, the expression of thanks and praise is considered an act of faith, and it is that faith that brings the miracle of restoration and health. Worship must be expressed or it never truly becomes your faith. Show Jesus your faith!

Have someone read:

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

Revelation 5:8-10

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Discussion Part 2:

Talk about God your Father singing over you. What do you think might be the result of His singing over you? Moses was encouraged to teach the people songs of God so that their children would remember God's words and deeds. Isn't interesting that in the Heavenly realm the history of Jesus taking the scroll, dying and redeeming us is recounted using a song? Talk about how He has established our eternal destiny by redeeming us "out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation". Why then are we so insistent on championing human genetics instead of His Name and blood?

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

There is great spiritual genius that God has infused into these songs and Psalms that we are called to sing from His word. God is intentionally tapping the frontal lobe of our brain so that these words are not just in our conscious, but also in our unconscious mind. Dr. Caroline Leaf says that "worship helps make the Gamma waves in your brain fire." God sings. You are made in His image - you were designed to sing, so sing!

Life Application:

If you were one of those nine lepers that did not return to thank Jesus, what do you think you would be wishing today? Take advantage of your opportunity right now and lift up your voices to give God thanks, praise, and worship. Give evidence to your faith with heart felt, openly expressed worship. (*Pastor Stephen I am uncomfortable!*) Focus on God and what He wants to do for you. Don't let fear bully you.

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

"Father God we worship You! Thank You for all You have done for us, all You're doing for us, and all the great plans that You have for us. Yours is the wisdom, the glory, and the power. You make all things beautiful. You healed the lepers, and you completely restored that one. Help us to be faithful to always return and say "thank You"! Father we welcome Your singing over us. Sing blessing, healing, and strength over us. Sing over our church family. Sing over our Life Group! Even in the midnight hour, we ask You to continue singing over us. Help us to never forget that Jesus has made us kings and priests unto You. We are called to command Your will in prayer and reign in this life by Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17) ... (Continue to pray specifically for one another's needs ...)