

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Providence: Learning Gratitude

Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, November 17, 2019

We have an imperfect appreciation for what God has done for us. The tendency when things are going well is to move toward an attitude that takes God and His blessings for granted. It makes sense to be grateful for what God has already done. Those who appreciate the character of God the most realize that they should show gratitude in advance of His favor.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

LEARNING GRATITUDE

Not only should you trust God, you ought to respond to Him with thankfulness, even when you are in the midst of tough, confusing times. There is no telling where you would be without His hand of providence bringing you to the place where you are today. For this He deserves your gratitude.

Ephesians 5:20

...giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... ESV

We must not forget that every breath, every heartbeat, every mouthful of food, every piece of clothing, and every ray of sunshine come from the hand of God.

We ought to spend far less time wondering why God does what He does and just be thankful that He hides certain details from us. You likely would not have been able to handle it if you knew in advance about everything that has happened to you. We should be grateful that He does not tell us everything.

Could God have prevented that bad thing from happening in your life? Sure He could have – but for whose benefit? For yours or for His? To accomplish what you want or to fulfill His eternal purposes? Look past the here and now, the pain and the hurt, and thank God that He knows what He is doing.

God in His providential care may do/allow some things that we feel are bad: the hurricane, the flood, the accident, the physical infirmity, etc. If He does allow some calamity, He is certainly using it to accomplish His purposes.

THE EFFECTS OF GRATITUDE

We have such a habit of magnifying our problems and trials that we do not see opportunities to show our thankfulness.

- To overcome selfishness and to make us rejoice in the happiness of others.
- To make us feel a deeper interest in the condition of others.
- To elevate and enlarge our conceptions of the goodness of God.

A person who is ungrateful and establishes a pattern of murmuring will eventually find his/her mind becoming sour. A person who looks for opportunities to be thankful will soon find their burden of his sorrows alleviated, and his mind tranquil and calm.

GIVING VOICE TO GRATITUDE

Psalm 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Job 1:21

And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Conclusion

As you thank God for what He has already done, He stands ready to bless you and open many doors for you!