

**Thanks and Giving-1**  
**“Where are the other nine?”**  
**Luke 17:11-19 (NIV)**

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a second to welcome our first-time guests and those watching with us online!

Can you believe that Thanksgiving Day is only 12 days away? Who's ready? It's a day filled with family, feasting & football!

Today we're kicking off a 3-week series called “Thanks and Giving” because for the Christian, these two words shouldn't just define one day a year...they should define our lifestyle!

The idea of giving thanks to God or having an attitude of gratitude is mentioned over 150 times throughout the Scriptures...

In fact, according to Psalm 100...everytime you and I come to church we should come through the doors with an attitude of thanksgiving...

**4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name-Ps 100:4 (NLT)**

What is Thanksgiving? Thanksgiving is giving thanks to God for what He's already done in your life!

You see, when we begin to think about what the Lord has done...when we have thankful hearts, we can't help but begin to praise Him!

We used to sing this song...

*"When I think about the Lord...How He saved me, how He raised me, How He filled me with the Holy Ghost, How He healed me to the uttermost..."*

*When I think about the Lord...How He picked me up, turned me around, set my feet on solid ground...it makes me want to shout!*

*Alleluia, thank You, Jesus  
Lord, You're worthy of all the glory  
And all the honor, and all the praise!"*

Let's give Jesus a praise break!

## **Pray**

The theme of our text this morning is thanksgiving...It's having an attitude of gratitude...

**11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance**

***13 and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”-Lk 17:11–13 (NIV)***

Jesus and His disciples are traveling to Jerusalem...and just so you know in this time period Jews and Samaritans disliked each other...

In fact, most Jews refused to walk through Samaria...they wouldn't even speak to a Samaritan, because Samaritans were a people group who were both Jewish and Gentile...

So most Jews on their way to Jerusalem would take the long way around to avoid Samaria altogether...

Jesus on the other hand was willing to cross all kinds of boundary lines...including racial ones...

Remember, in JN 4, Jesus goes into Samaria and speaks with the woman at the well...and John tells us that Jesus spent a couple of days in that woman's village and many came to believe in Jesus!

Racism and prejudice have no place in the Kingdom of God...Sinners come in all colors and Jesus came to save sinners!

Now we don't know what village Jesus entered because Luke doesn't tell us...Just for fun we'll call it Co-op City...

On the outskirts of Co-op City are 10 men with Leprosy...

Leprosy was a highly contagious disease... An infected person would get a rash or a sore that doesn't heal...then it begins to spread across the body...

As the disease progresses a person would lose sense of feeling in their hands and feet...Their face would become disfigured...they're bones would begin to twist and become disfigured...they would even lose their fingers...

So in the ancient world, leprosy wasn't only a painful disease...it was deadly...unless God healed you...there was no cure for it...

Today leprosy is called "Hansen's Disease" named after the Dr. who discovered the bacteria that causes leprosy...

So because the disease was so contagious...An infected person had to leave their family, they were considered unclean according to the law...

They had no social life...They were outcasts...They couldn't go to church...

They couldn't go to work...they couldn't go anywhere where there were people...

If people were walking towards them they would have to yell "Unclean"

Now because we're relational...because God created us to live in community... people with leprosy would live together and help one another...

## **Hanging out during Covid**

So these guys see Jesus they're not allowed to go near people...they have to stay at least 150' away from people...

But they see this guy walking with a crowd around Him...and somehow they know it's Jesus!

Hey isn't that the Guy we heard about? The One people say is the Son of God? The One who heals people? So they start calling out to Him!

***“Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”***

They use the word “Master” meaning that there's no one who is higher than He is...No one who is able to do what He can do...He is supreme...

They scream...Jesus, Master, the One who has all authority...have pity on us...

That word pity in the Greek language doesn't just mean to have sympathy...See, you can feel sorry for a person and be like...Ugh that's terrible...okay on with my day...

They were asking Jesus to feel their pain and to be moved into doing something about it...



That's compassion...That's our God!

***8 The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.-Ps 103:8 (NLT)***

These guys had nothing to lose...They encountered Jesus, and from a distance they just started asking Him to have pity on them...

They may never have this opportunity again! This may be the closest they ever get to Jesus...and they don't want to let this moment slip away!

Jesus sees us in our **BROKENESS**

***14 When he saw them,*** Please catch that...You see, you may be in a situation...you may be going through something and you're feeling all alone...you're feeling isolated...

You're thinking that God doesn't notice you...That's a lie... God sees you...God notices you...You're not alone!

The rest of the world may view you as an outcast...you may be invisible to everyone else...but you're not invisible to God!

Jesus saw them and **he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."** Now this isn't the first-time that Jesus has encountered this disease...In Luke 5 a man with leprosy sees Jesus and falls at His feet saying...

**12..."Lord," he said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." 13 Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. 14 Then Jesus instructed him not to tell anyone what had happened. He said, "Go to the priest and let him examine you.**

***Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.”-Lk 5:12–14 (NLT)***

In both cases we see that Jesus is instructing people to go and show the priest...The reason being that in those days the priest wasn't just the guy who preaches and teaches and marries and buries...He was also kind of like a health inspector...

I just want to say, thank God that I don't have to see all of your bumps, lumps and leaks...because I love ya...but I'm not that guy!

Ask my kids...I didn't do well when they were all sick...I was lacking in compassion...I was like stay away from me!

**Mecaila sick**

But back then...it was the priest who had to determine if you were well...In fact, God had it all planned out...you can read about it in detail in Lev 13 & 14

So Jesus is telling them to obey the Law of Moses and go show the priest so that the priest can declare them to be well...

But there's something else going on here that I want you to notice...Remember...Outside of God doing a miracle, leprosy was incurable...

In fact, the first mention of leprosy in the Bible is found in Exodus...God is telling Moses that He wants Moses to lead His people out of Egypt and Moses is making excuses...

God's like don't worry, I'll be with you and I will perform these miraculous signs to prove it...

God says throw your staff down...and what happened? God turned it into a snake...showing Moses the kinds of miracles He's going to do in Egypt to prove that He is God...

Do you remember what happened next?

***6 Then the Lord said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow. 7 "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.-Ex 4:6–7 (NIV)***

God gave Moses leprosy and then healed him...

In Numbers 12...Moses brother Aaron and his sister Miriam are trash talking about Moses... God doesn't like that

***9 The anger of the Lord burned against them, and he left them. 10 When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam's skin was leprous—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease, 11 and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. 12 Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away." 13 So Moses cried out to the Lord, "Please, God, heal her!"-Nu 12:9–13 (NIV)***

So God, once again, is the One who heals the leprosy...

One other time...in 2 Kings 5 God uses the Prophet Elisha to heal a guy with leprosy named Naaman...

What's my point? My point is that unless God did a miracle, from the time of Moses until the time of Jesus...no priest ever got to declare that a person who had leprosy was clean...

Now all of a sudden people are encountering Jesus and He's sending them to the priest... They're getting to the priest and they're like...Hey! We've been cured of leprosy...

The priest is like...wait what? What am I supposed to do again? Hey where's the rule book?

The priests had to be blown away...

What is Jesus showing them? Jesus is showing them that He is God! Why do you have to exercise Lev. 13 & 14? Because Jesus healed them!

So Jesus sees these 10 men and He says go and show yourselves to the priest...

Now here's the thing...You weren't supposed to go to the priest unless you were cured first...Jesus is telling them to go before they were cured...In other words, they had to exercise their faith...

Faith requires **ACTION** before **RESULTS**

Now again these guys have absolutely nothing to lose...They take Jesus at His word...Okay He says go...I'm going to go...

***And as they went, they were cleansed-Lk 17:14 (NIV)***

So I can picture these guys headed for the nearest synagogue...I can't wait to see my family...I can't wait to hold my wife...



I can't wait to hug my children...I can't wait to worship God in the Temple...

As they're walking their skin starts to become normal...their hands and fingers begin to straighten up...Maybe they even begin to grow new limbs...

It's a miracle! You see sometimes God heals and it's instantaneous...other times He heals as You walk by faith!

***11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.-Heb 11:1 (NKJV)***

To have faith...means that we take God at His word, before we see the results...

By the way...the results may not be exactly what we want, but they will always be exactly what God knows we need...so we trust Him!

So these guys are all healed as they're walking...

An attitude of gratitude will **SHOW**

***15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.-Lk 17:15–16 (NIV)***

So one out of 10 guys are so filled with gratitude that he turns around and goes back to thank Jesus...and Luke tells us that the guy was a Samaritan...

So not only was he an outcast for having leprosy...he was an outcast among the outcasts because he was a Samaritan...

What I want you to see is that when we are truly thankful...when we have an attitude of gratitude

That thankfulness will begin to overflow into action that can be seen...This guy was so thankful that he had to turn around and go back to thank Jesus...

***17 Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” 19 Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”-Lk 17:17–19 (NIV)***

What an amazing passage of scripture...10 men were healed...I'm sure if we were to ask each of them...they would say that they were thankful...

I mean how could you not be thankful after that experience?

But there's a difference between saying you're thankful and showing that you're thankful...

I want to close with a couple of observations...

We can be blessed **BY** God and never stop to **THANK** God

And here's the thing...we are blessed by God in so many ways...yet I wonder if when it comes to thanking God we're more like one of the nine? Myself included...

Have you ever watched a child open a bunch of presents? It's one of my favorite things in the world...

5 Kids/ Christmas Morning/ Controlled Chaos/

Now we didn't have a lot of money...but we usually got the kids one thing that they really wanted...and then a bunch of things that they needed...

It's funny because whenever they got what they wanted they were like "thank you, thank you...thank you"

But when they got like socks...they would kind just toss it aside and wait for the next big thing...

I'm just wondering if we tend to do that with God? We don't mean too...It's just that we want the big things...and while we're busy waiting for them...we're getting blessed with all of these "little things" everyday and we forget to say thank you!

We have a lot of wants...and it's okay to ask God for things...but don't forget that while we're asking for wants...He's providing us with our needs!

You want that job some day? Thank Him for the one you have now...

You want that house some day? Thank Him for the place you live now...

The fact is that God is blessing us all over the place...we just forget to count them!

When you think about all of the ways that God blesses us...we should actually be thanking God more often than asking God...

***16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.-1 Th 5:16-18 (NIV)***

Scripture commands us to give thanks in all circumstances...Why is that so important? Because it reminds us that God is still God no matter what I'm going through...

God is still good...even when things are bad!

We thank Him for Who He is...not just what He's done for us!

If we just seek His hands and not His face we will never be content...Instead of singing Thank You Jesus for the blood applied...Thank You Jesus it has washed me white...

We'll be stuck in the past singing "What have you done for me lately?" That's a scary place to be...First of all ingratitude is part of our sinful nature...

***21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.-Ro 1:21 (NIV)***

Instead of giving glory to God...and giving Him thanks...people reject God...hearts filled with ingratitude...

Don't allow ingratitude to harden your heart!  
You'll either start believing that you have all that  
you have because of your skill, wisdom and  
ability...Or you'll start getting this idea that God  
owes you something...God needs to give you  
more...

Can I say something? God owes us nothing  
and yet He's given us everything we need!  
That's grace!

An attitude of gratitude will overflow into  
**WORSHIP**

***15 One of them, when he saw he was  
healed, came back, praising God in a loud  
voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and  
thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.-Lk  
17:15–16 (NIV)***

Worship is more than just singing  
songs...Worship is a lifestyle...



When you have a heart that is overflowing with gratitude...It's going to show in how you live your life...It's going to show in how you use your time, your talents and your treasure...

Our series is called "Thanks and Giving" because I don't think that we can truly worship God with our time, talents and treasure if we're not first thankful to God!

The next couple of weeks are going to challenge you to begin to deepen your worship in these areas...

But first you've got to stop and ask yourself if you're the One out of the 10 or if you're one of the nine...

The other thing I want to point out about the Samaritan's worship is that it deepened His relationship with Jesus...

The other nine got what they wanted and went on their way...But the Samaritan got much more!

Let me show you...

***14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.-Lk 17:14 (NIV)***

The Greek word for cleansed is **kath-ar-id'-zo** It means pure, clean, without stain or spot...

***15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. LK 17:15 (NIV)***

The Greek word for healed is **ee-ah'-om-ahee**  
It means to cure or physically restore an affliction or disease...

But the Samaritan who came back to say thank You...Jesus tells Him

**19...“*Rise and go; your faith has made you well.*”- Lk 17:19.**

Those three words “Made you well” is one word in the Greek...**sode'-zo** it means to save or salvation...It's used when describing a soul that has been made right with God...

Jesus is literally saying “rise and go your faith has saved you”

It's the same word that Matthew uses when telling the story of how the angel appeared to Joseph...

**20...*an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.***

**21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save (sode'-zo) his people from their sins.”-Mt 1:20–21.**

It's the same word that Paul uses in his letter to the Ephesian churches...

**8 For it is by grace you have been saved, (sode'-zo) through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast.-Eph 2:8–9 (NIV)**

What I want you to see is that this Samaritan man...is filled with gratitude...He comes back to Jesus...he humbles himself and falls down to worship Jesus...

And he puts his faith in Jesus as Lord...Jesus tells him your faith has saved you...saved him from what? Sin, death and hell...

Think about this...

Those other nine guys were healed on the outside but were still rotten on the inside...

Without Jesus we all suffer from spiritual leprosy...

So many people come to Jesus and they want Him to work a miracle to improve their life here on earth...Never thinking about eternity...

If you only come to Jesus to heal your body, or to get you out of that mess...but you never repent of your sin and trust Him as Lord and Savior of your life...

You're missing out on the greatest gift of all!  
Eternal life!

This life is temporary...

Think about it...all 10 got healed but all 10 eventually died!

Only one that we know of...went to be with Jesus when he died!

We can't live just for the here and now...We can't live for and seek after things that aren't going to matter in 100 years...

Jesus didn't come to improve your life...He came to save you from your sin! This is why Paul says...

***19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.-1 Cor 15:19 (NIV)***

This is why Jesus said to the large crowd following Him...

***“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.***

**35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?-Mk 8:34–36 (NIV)**

There's nothing more important than where we will spend eternity...and if Jesus never does another thing for us...we still have every reason to be thankful and to give Him praise!

As we close today...we're going to spend some time just worshiping and thanking God...but I want you to see that the Samaritans story is really our story!

You see, we were the one who was sick with sin...and that sin separated us from God...And yet God in His love and mercy sent Jesus on a mission to save us! Jesus saw us...and we cried out to Him...and He saved us!

The question is how are you showing your thanks to Him? If you're here today or watching online and you're thinking...I need to cultivate an attitude of gratitude. I want to pray for you!

## **Prayer**

If you're here today and you're far away from God...I want to tell you that it's not too late to cry out to Jesus for the first time, or to come back to Him! He's waiting for you!

## **Prayer for salvation**

## **Altar Time**