

RETURNING TO THANKFULNESS

I want to ask you a personal question: How many of you live a life of thanksgiving?

Many times we are thankful for all the things the Lord has done, but not for who He is

So many times our thanks becomes materialistic based instead of person-based; which means you're only thankful when something good comes into your life.

That's not really a life of gratitude

Thanksgiving is not just a feeling, but an active, spiritual of worship given to God where we acknowledge and recognize God's character, works, and attributes!

Luke 17:11-19 NKJV Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. ¹² Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. ¹³ And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? ¹⁸ Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Thanksgiving is mentioned 140 times in the Bible. Why?

Psalms 136:1-4 NKJV Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is* good!
For His mercy *endures* forever.

² Oh, give thanks to the God of gods!
For His mercy *endures* forever.

³ Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords!

For His mercy *endures* forever:

⁴ To Him who alone does great wonders,

For His mercy *endures* forever;

Listen closely, ingratitude may not cancel Christ's mercy in your life, but can deprive you of fellowship with Him!

10 lepers came to Christ for healing, but only one returned with thankfulness

1. THE LEPERS CALL V. 12-13

When Jesus saw the lepers they were standing far off. Why?

Lev 13:46 He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He *is* unclean, and he shall ^[a]dwell alone; his dwelling *shall be* outside the camp.

Leprosy is a picture of the sinful state of us all. Like leprosy, sin separates us from the Lord

v. 13

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

Aren't you glad Lamentations 3 says His mercies are new every morning, meaning His mercies never run out!

They called to the right Man. These lepers all had the same thing in common, they were all affected with the same disease

Like us

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the ^[a]gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

They were all dying without Christ and so are we!

2. THE LEPERS CLEANSED V. 14

Can you see God's compassion here? When He saw them He released healing and said go show yourself to the priest because His command demanded faith

Also, the priests had the authority to pronounce them clean

Church, Christ's work withstands all the critics and their scrutiny

As they went, they were cleansed. Their first step of faith brought cleansing

Church, your first step of faith in Christ will also bring immediate cleansing from sin. Will you take that step?

3. THE THANKFUL LEPER V. 15,16

As soon as this one was healed, he came back to Jesus and glorified Him with a loud voice!

He was overwhelmed with gratitude as he fell down on his face at the feet of Jesus to give Him the proper thanks

He returned to thankfulness!

Why did he return but the other 9 didn't?

He returned to give thanks because he was hopeless and now he had hope!

He was homeless and now he could go home

He had been rejected both as a leper and a Samaritan – now he will be received!

Church we should be as thankful as this cleansed leper, after all, as a child of God you have been cleansed!

4. THE UNGRATEFUL LEPERS V. 17,18

These 9 other lepers never gave another thought to return and say thanks, they just went on their merry way

Jesus said, where are the nine?

Isn't it amazing how soon we forget the goodness of God?

Jesus commended the one. This one didn't just receive physical healing, he truly saw Christ and now has a relationship with Him!

Are you thankful or thoughtless?

1 Thes 5:16-19 Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

**Psalm 100:4,5 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.**

Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.

⁵ For the Lord *is* good;

His mercy *is* everlasting,

And His truth *endures* to all generations.

If you only thank God for what you receive from Him, your thanks will go up and down

But when you return to Him to give thanks for who He is, then my friend, you'll never run out of thankfulness

***Read journal

**Psalm 107:1 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is* good!
For His ^[a]mercy *endures* forever.**

Church, we are called to live a life of gratitude!