



“The Expression of Thanks”

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ 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.”

Have you ever done something big for someone and that individual did not express thanks?

The people I have done the most for have been the meanest to me as a person!

III.- driving a school bus to pick up teenagers

1. The Condition of the Men

- ✓ **10 men**
- ✓ **Who were lepers**

Many have thought leprosy to be a disease of the skin. It is better classified, however, as a disease of the nervous system because the leprosy bacterium attacks the nerves. Leprosy's agent *M. leprae* is a rod-shaped bacterium related to the tuberculosis bacterium. Leprosy is spread by multiple skin contacts, as well as by droplets from the upper respiratory tracts, such as nasal secretions that are transmitted from person to person. Its symptoms start in the skin and peripheral nervous system (outside the brain and spinal cord), then spread to other parts, such as the hands, feet, face, and earlobes. Patients with leprosy experience disfigurement of the skin and bones, twisting of the limbs, and curling of the fingers to form the characteristic claw hand. Facial changes include thickening of the outer ear and collapsing of the nose. Tumor-like growths called lepromas may form on the skin and in the respiratory tract, and the optic nerve may deteriorate. The largest number of deformities develop from loss of pain sensation due to extensive nerve damage. For instance, inattentive patients can pick up a cup of boiling water without flinching. It was the work of Dr. Paul Brand (the late world-renowned orthopedic surgeon and leprosy physician) with leprosy patients that illustrated, in part, the value of sensing pain in this world. The leprosy bacillus destroys nerve endings that carry pain signals; therefore patients with advanced leprosy experience a total loss of physical pain. When these people cannot sense touch or pain, they tend to injure themselves or be unaware of injury caused by an outside agent. In fact, some leprosy patients have had their fingers eaten by rats in their sleep because they were totally unaware of it happening; the lack of pain receptors could not warn them of the danger.

Leprosy was greatly feared by the Israelites, not only because of the physical damage done by the disease, but also because of the strict isolation laws applying to leprosy, making patients feel like feared outcasts of society. . . . Leprosy [in the Bible] appears in two principle forms. The first, and by far the more dangerous, is called lepromatous; and the other, more benign type is designated tuberculoid. Both start with discoloration of a patch of skin. . . . In the lepromatous type of leprosy, the patch may spread widely in all directions. Portions of the eyebrows may disappear. Spongy, tumor-like swellings grow on the face and body. The disease becomes systemic and involves the internal organs as well as the skin. Marked deformity of the hands and feet occur when the tissues between the bones deteriorate and disappear. . . . Untreated cases may be sick with

leprous leprosy from ten to twenty years, death occurring from the disease itself. . . . The tuberculoid type is less severe. . . . [It] tends to be limited and even untreated cases heal completely in from one to three years.(The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, "Leprosy.")

✓ **Who stood afar off**

They had to stand afar off because of the law found in Leviticus 13:45-46. (⁴⁵ "Now the leper on whom the sore *is*, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!' ⁴⁶ He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He *is* unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling *shall be* outside the camp.)

Leprosy was deadly, terminal and had no cure outside of supernatural intervention. Only a miracle could save a leper!

These lepers were separated from life – at least any life worth living! They were outcasts, forgotten, hopeless and desperate. They suffered, knowing that death was their only way of release. They were utterly rejected!

And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

III. (have 10 men come up front)

David said in Psalms 116- I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell had hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

2. The Cleansing of the Men

Jesus had previously dealt with a leprous man! Mark 1:40-45

- ✓ He saw them
- ✓ He said to them

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

They all had to demonstrate faith.

Whenever we ask God for something He expects us to demonstrate faith to receive it.

And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

3. The Character of the Men

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

- ✓ They were all healed
- ✓ Only one returned to give thanks

The Samaritan knew he was unworthy! He was considered to be sub-human; more like a dog, and the Jews counted him as unclean even if he didn't have leprosy. He knew that he had a supernatural visitation from the God of Israel. He was so very grateful because he knew that he didn't deserve anything! It was only by God's grace and mercy that he received anything! Even the act of going to show his miracle to the priests was more than he could ever expect! He was an outcast in Israel just for being a Samaritan, and to be a Samaritan with leprosy was a double-barreled sentence of death! And now he was free! No wonder he rejoiced and gave glory to the Lord!

- ✓ Returned

- ✓ Loud voice
- ✓ Fell down on his face at his feet
- ✓ Giving him thanks
- ✓ (And he was a Samaritan)

Example- The man born blind in John 9- 10 Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.” ... 25 He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.”

Example- The man who had been born crippled in Acts 3- 6 Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

4. The Challenge of the Master

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?”

- ✓ Jesus asked some pertinent questions.
- ✓ Jesus gave words of action.

19 And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

What happened with the other nine? What was next for the Samaritan?

The worldview of “Entitlement”

Entitlement culture teaches that we deserve to have things given to us and that we should have special privileges. Those enmeshed in entitlement culture believe strongly that the whole world revolves around their perceived rights, needs, and wants. Its rallying cries are “my way,” “my rights,” and “I deserve.” Within American society certain rights are acknowledged as God-given and inalienable. But the entitlement culture takes it further, presuming rights that are neither divinely granted nor constitutionally guaranteed. Often, entitlement culture is associated with the younger generation and manifests itself in demands to get something for nothing—education, health care, wages, advancements, etc. But those with a feeling of entitlement—that the world somehow “owes” them—can be older, as well. Many middle-aged and older people feel entitled to a comfortable life, a lack of pain, a freedom from difficulty of all kinds. Everyone likes the idea of being pampered. It’s when we start demanding perks and comforts as a “right” or when we try to circumvent the principle of *earning* privileges that we succumb to the entitlement culture.

III.- Hunting course- It is not a right, it is a privilege

The removal of leprosy changed everything- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Physically, socially, mentally, etc.

➤ **Think about this with me.**

Waking up in the morning.

Looking in the mirror.

Go shopping.

Having friends.

Experiencing touch.

Playing sports.

No longer- pain, shame, embarrassment, isolation, fear, sleepless nights,

- ✓ Day 1
- ✓ Day 30
- ✓ Year 1
- ✓ Year 10
- ✓ Year 50

1 Corinthians 6- ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.;

Ephesians chapter 2

Deuteronomy 8- ¹¹ "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, ¹² lest—*when* you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell *in them*; ¹³ and *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; ¹⁴ when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; ¹⁵ who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, *in which were* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end— ¹⁷ then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'

2 Peter 1- 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;** 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

THE DANGER OF FORGETTING!

BE CAREFUL!!

Charles Spurgeon was a famous preacher in the 19th century. One day a woman who was seeking to be right with God told him, **"If Jesus ever saves me, he will never hear the end of it!"**

Illustration: The story is told of two old friends who bumped into one another on the street one day. One of them looked forlorn, almost on the verge of tears. His friend asked, "What has the world done to you, my old friend?" The sad fellow said, "Let me tell you. Three weeks ago, my great-aunt whom I hardly knew passed away. I inherited almost 100 million dollars. " blessed...." His friend replied, "That's a lot of money." The sad friend continued, "Then, two weeks ago, a cousin I never even knew died, and left me eighty-five thousand free and clear." "Sounds like you've been "You don't understand!" he interrupted. "Last week an uncle died and left me forty thousand dollars." Now the other friend was really confused. "Then, why do you look so glum?" The sad friend replied, "This week... nothing!"

Ill.- Covid division People problems

Every division we have with others is just a distraction from being thankful for what God has done! What we

focus on has the power to change the entirety of our lives!

What Can We Learn from the 10 Lepers Encounter with Jesus?

God Values the Least

In our culture of platform building and rising celebrity status, we forget that God values the least. He places honor on the poor, the broken, the messy, and the marginalized. The 10 Lepers were outcasts of society. Beyond just having leprosy at least one was from Samaria which would have made him the lowest of the low. He had absolutely no status and was looked down on as an untouchable. Yet, Jesus treasured each one, even the Samaritan, heard their cries, and healed them.

God Honors Faith

The 10 lepers weren't healed until they acted in faith and turned to head to the priest. Did they have lots of faith or just a little faith? We don't know. What we do know is they acted on the faith they had and started out on the journey to show themselves to the priests. In your life and mind, God will never let us off the hook of faith. As the writer of Hebrews wrote, "And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)). God rewarded the 10 lepers' faith by healing them.

God Cherishes Gratitude

Even more than the measure of our faith, God cherishes gratitude. Only one of the 10 lepers turned back, fell at Jesus' feet, and thanked Him with a loud voice. Though Jesus was Almighty God, He was sensitive. His sensitivity didn't make Him weak. It was a powerful gift. Since Jesus came to reveal the Father to us, we can assume that our heavenly Father is also sensitive. I believe we offend Him when we take His gifts for granted and forget to say, "Thank you." The Apostle Paul alluded to this when He wrote to the church in Thessalonica, instructing them to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" ([1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)). Gratitude is a core discipleship issue for the believer and it's God's will that we learn to be grateful in every situation.

The question then is how do we give thanks and keep an attitude of gratitude in our busy everyday lives?

5 Practical Ways to Thank God Daily

1. Keep a blessing journal at the dinner table. Tuck a thin journal in the napkin holder on your dinner table and get in the habit of listing your top three blessings of every day. By writing down your blessings every day, gratitude will grow in your heart. Not all blessings are huge. Perhaps a blessing is beautiful weather or a hug from a friend. Perhaps it's that a baby slept through the night, or you got a bonus at work. Maybe the blessing is a delicious warm cup of coffee or an encouraging phone call. Whatever the blessing, practice writing it down as a form of giving thanks. In this way, you will be strengthening your gratitude muscle so that you, like the 1 of the 10 lepers will remember to say thank you.

2. Develop a daily rhythm of thanking God for His love every morning and His faithfulness every evening. Our early church fathers had rhythms to their days so that Christ would be central in their gratitude. Develop a morning and evening rhythm of giving thanks so that it becomes a lifelong pattern. The Psalmist wrote, "It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and our faithfulness at night" ([Psalm 92:1-2](#)). Before you even get out of bed in the morning, thank God for His deep love for you. Before you fall asleep at night whisper a [prayer](#), thanking God for His faithfulness that you experienced during your day.

3. Set an alarm on your phone to remind you to thank God for His gifts. The Psalmist wrote, "Seven times a day I praise You" ([Psalm 119:164](#)). What a beautiful pattern. In our day and age, we have the benefit of alarms on our phones. We can set reminders on our phones so that at specific hours of the day we can pause and give thanks. Wouldn't it be beautiful if we followed the example of the Psalmist and paused seven times a day to give thanks?

4. Forgive those who have hurt you. What does forgiveness have to do with gratitude? Everything. God has forgiven you for all the times you've hurt Him. Out

of gratitude for His forgiveness, forgive those who have hurt you ([Ephesians 4:32](#)). When you realize the depth of your own sinfulness and the depth of God's grace, gratitude wells up inside you and it becomes far easier to forgive those who have hurt you.

5. Listen to worship music to prompt your thanksgiving. Worship music is a great tool to prompt our praise and thanksgiving. As you listen, ask the Holy Spirit to stir up gratitude in your heart for all the Lord has done. You don't have to sing your thanksgiving (although you could), the point is to allow the music to remind you of all the ways God has been good to you. As you are reminded of His goodness, thank Him.

What's your take-a-way?

Let's pray.