

THE OPPOSITE OF THANKFUL

Luke 17:11-19

Introduction: Sad, but true, most people do not exhibit thankfulness as they could and as they should. All of us have seen and heard people in situations where they should have said "thank you" or nodded a "thank you" or expressed "thanks" in some form or other, and to be honest, all of us have done the same thing. We have failed to express "thanks" to someone for doing something for us. Jesus and such an encounter with ten men and our text details that episode.

I. TEN MEN HAD LEPROSY AND JESUS CURED THEM

1. In a way the ten men can represent the whole human race.
 - They all were healed by Jesus of their dread disease.
 - Nine of the ten never told Jesus "thank you" or expressed "thanks" in any form.
 - The human race is stricken with the disease of sin and Jesus can heal every person.

II. OF THE TEN CURED, ONLY ONE EXPRESSED THANKS/GRATITUDE

1. Only one of the ten who were healed turned back, came to Jesus and thanked Him.
 - Gratitude is one of the foremost blessings and can be called the "father" of all graces.
 - Gratitude likewise "fits" us for even greater blessings from God.
 - Gratitude is a remarkable discoverer. Thankful hearts can find many ways to be thankful.
 - A man once complained that he had no socks until he saw a man who had no feet.
2. "Think and Thank." Perhaps up to now you have lived on "Grumbling Street" or in "Whining Lane" if so, why not move to "Gratitude Terrace" or to "Thanksgiving Corner."
 - Right now, just close your eyes and exclaim: *"...Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not ALL His benefits..."*

III. NINE OF THE TEN JESUS HEALED WERE UNTHANKFUL/UNGRATEFUL

1. Jesus, Himself, was also a man and was saddened when the other nine failed to return and say "Thank you."
 - We are often in the company of the ungrateful/unthankful nine, for we, too take all we can get from God, but offer Him very little in return, not even a "thanks..."
2. Just what is "ingratitude/unthankfulness"?
 - First of all, it is a sin. It is one of the characteristic features of not caring about God. It is a sin against God, against society, and against ones self.
 - Then it is a form of robbery. The nine robbed the heart of Jesus of the gratitude His miracle deserved. We often rob our friends of joy and happiness simply because we fail to say "thank you..."
 - It is also cruel. No doubt our world is a cruel world and we live in an ungrateful world. The greater the compassion shown, it seems the greater the ingratitude.

- It is selfishness. Thankless lives are selfish lives. Perhaps the nine felt they deserved the healing. We, too, need to guard ourselves against the sick self-conceit and pride.

3. There is Social ingratitude. Think how happier this world would be if only people knew how to be grateful for what they have, even if it is little. Everyone has something that others do not have. Gratitude is sadly needed in our lives.
4. Then there is Spiritual ingratitude. There may be some sort of excuse for those who never heard of Jesus, if they hold a thankless attitude, spirit, but for those who are blessed with the knowledge of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, there is absolutely NO excuse for being ungrateful, unthankful.

CONCLUSION:

1. So, do you praise God continually?
 - For His Son, Jesus?
 - For His Holy Spirit?
 - For His Word?
 - For His Grace?
 - For His Salvation?
 - For His Special Day?
 - For His Church?
2. Let our thanks be given every day to almighty God for all these unspeakable gifts to us.
3. May our thanksgiving lead to "thanks-living."
4. May our lips and life be in complete harmony.
5. From this day forth, may we never be counted among the "nine" who never told Jesus "thanks."