

The Ten Lepers - Luke 17:11-19

Luke 17:11-19 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. (12) And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: (13) And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. (14) And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. (15) And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, 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) And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? (18) There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. (19) And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

I'm sure all ten were happy to have been healed. Perhaps in their joy, nine rushed off. Maybe they were going to the priest as Jesus suggested of maybe to tell their loved ones, but only one returned to say "thank you." We get so caught up in our personal activities that when they are suddenly gone, we forget to simply say "thank you."

|(1) GOD WANTS OUR THANKS, (2) GOD DESERVES OUR THANKS, (3) HOW WE SHOW OUR THANKS:

GOD WANTS OUR APPRECIATION. Notice the word continually in Heb. 13:15. *Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.* Continually offer a sacrifice of praise. How do you do that - by giving thanks. The psalmist weighs in on this matter. He tells us to offer unto God thanksgiving (Psalms 50:14). Then he tells us why we should go to God with thanksgiving. (1) because God is great (Psalms 95:2-3) and (2) because God is good and faithful (Psalms 100:4-5).

“THE WORLD IS MINE!” - DOT AARON

Today, upon a bus, I saw a lovely girl with golden hair.

I envied her, she seemed so gay; I wished I were as fair.

When suddenly she rose to leave,

I saw her hobble down the aisle.

She had one leg, and wore a crutch,

And as she passed – a smile.

O God, forgive me when I whine.

I have two legs, the world is mine!

And then I stopped to buy some sweets.
The lad who sold them had such charm
I talked with him – he seemed so glad –
If I were late ‘twould do no harm.

And as I left he said to me:
“I thank you. You’ve been so kind.
It’s nice to talk with folks like you.
You see,” he said, “I’m blind.”
O God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two eyes, the world is mine!

Later, walking down the street,
I saw a child with eyes of blue.
He stood and watched the others play
It seemed he knew not what to do.

I stopped a moment, then I said,
“Why don’t you join the others, dear?”
He looked ahead without a word,
And then I knew – he could not hear.
O God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two ears, the world is mine!

With legs to take me where I would go –
With eyes to see the sunset’s glow –

With ears to hear what I would know –
 O God, forgive me when I whine.
 I'm blest indeed, the world is mine!

GOD DESERVES OUR THANKS. Every good gift comes from God. *James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.* Since the Father in heaven is the giver of all things, it's logical that we give Him thanks for all things. *Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* God blesses us every day. Notice how the psalmist puts it. *Psalms 68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.* Today let us remember to give thanks not only for the sunlight, but for those darker hours that teaches us patience. Today let us profess a grateful heart not merely for successes we enjoy but also those failures that teach humility. Give thanks for “all” things.

HOW WE SHOW OUR THANKS: How does a person show thanks to the God of heaven for “all” things. Let me suggest three areas.

(1) This first and most obvious is prayer.

1. 1Thessolinians 5:18 - in everything give thanks
2. 1 Timothy 2:1 - pray on behalf of all men
3. Philippians 4:6 - in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God instead of being a worrier

(2) In Song. We might expand that thought to include worship. David would write in Psalms 30 to sing praises of thanksgiving. *Psalms 30:4 Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.* We can show our gratitude in the same way. This is why we sing songs like “Count Your Many Blessings.” The apostle Paul would write, *Ephesians 5:19-20 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our*

Lord Jesus Christ;

(3) In whatever you do. *Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.* We are expected to give thanks to God in whatever we do. This entails your behavior and actions. We show our gratitude to God by obeying His teaching. He loves us, He blesses us, and He instructs us. In return we show our gratitude by obeying those instructions.

Let us be people who remember to be thankful. All throughout the Old Testament we see the Israelites forgetting God and thus losing God's favor. Let us not be that way. Instead, let us join together in thankful praise to God. ***Psalms 34:3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.***

Invitation Do you need to respond to the Lord's invitation?