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Be The One

LUKE 17:11-19

Introduction

1. Two of the easiest words to say in the English language are two of the most neglected — they are the words “Thank you.”
2. For those of us who are Christians, they should be among the most spoken words in our vocabulary.
3. You see, an ungrateful Christian is an oxymoron.
3. God’s people should be the most grateful that any person would encounter anywhere:

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- a. “but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57, NASB95)
- b. “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” (2 Corinthians 2:14, NASB95)

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- c. “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15, NASB95)
- d. “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Colossians 3:17, NASB95)
4. In our text today, Jesus addresses ingratitude in a powerful way.
5. It opens with Jesus making His way back to Jerusalem where He knows He will be crucified.
6. He is traveling along the border between Samaria and Galilee, when he enters a

village.

7. It is in this village that Jesus has a very important encounter.
8. Let's see what our Lord wants us to take away from it.

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I. A Mass Healing

A. TEN LEPROUS MEN

“As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him;”
(Luke 17:12, NASB95)

1. Leprosy was a very contagious disease which destroyed the nerves and brought about a loss of feeling.
2. As it progressed the skin began to die; a person's feet, hands and facial bones were destroyed.
3. Not only was leprosy a certain death sentence but also one of social ostracism.
4. The disease deprived its victims not only of health, but of their occupations, social events, families and fellowship in the synagogue, their place of worship.
5. These men knew that any contact with themselves made other people unclean (cf. Leviticus 13:42-46).
6. For this reason they were required to keep a distance of at least 50 paces from other people, cover their faces and warn people of their disease by calling out “Unclean! Unclean!”
7. These men also knew that Jesus could heal them.

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B. THEIR REQUEST

“and they raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!””
(Luke 17:13, NASB95)

1. So, these men came to Jesus with a desperate longing.

2. They wanted their lives back, they wanted once again to know the touch of their loved ones, to sit with them at a meal, to laugh once again.
3. While keeping their distance, they raised their voices to make sure that Jesus heard them.
4. They cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

Slide 6**C. JESUS' RESPONSE**

"When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." (Luke 17:14a, NASB95)

1. Jesus pronounced no great healing formula.
2. Earlier in His ministry another man, "covered with leprosy" came to Jesus and fell on his face and begged Jesus, "Lord if you are willing, You can make me clean" (Luke 5:12).
3. On that occasion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched the man.
4. He then said, "I am willing be cleansed." (Luke 5:13). The leprosy immediately left the man.
5. On this occasion simply said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

Slide 7**D. THE RESULT**

"And as they were going, they were cleansed." (Luke 17:14b, NASB95)

1. Jesus command was for the men to do what a "cured leper" would do.
2. According to the law (Leviticus 14) they were to be examined by a priest who would pronounce them clean.
3. If they were cured, the law required them to undergo an eight-day ceremony and then be reunited with their families.
4. Were they healed at this point? No.
5. Did they immediately start out to see the priests?
5. Did they talk among themselves?

- a. "We still have leprosy. We can't see the priests like this."
- b. "It's a long way to Jerusalem. What if it is a wasted trip?"
6. We aren't privy to their conversation.
7. What we do know is that all ten men exercised faith in what Jesus said.
8. They set out for Jerusalem.
9. "As they were going, they were cleansed!"
 - a. Fingers grew back where there had been only stubs.
 - b. Stumbling feet acquired toes.
 - c. Rotting flesh was made whole again.

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II. One Man's Gratitude

A. HIS RETURN

"Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan." (Luke 17:15–16, NASB95)

1. Realizing they had been cleansed, nine of the men continued on toward the temple and the priests.
2. One of the men, however, a Samaritan, put off going to the temple in order to return to Jesus.
2. He had two to thank.
3. First, he thanked God — "glorifying God with a loud voice" (v. 15).
 - a. He knew that what Jesus had done for him came directly from God.
 - b. With a loud voice, he came glorifying God.
 - c. Luke uses two Greek words here for loud voice — "*phones megales*"
 - d. They are the words from which we get our word *megaphone*.
 - e. This man was shouting his praise to God.

4. Second, he thanked Jesus — “he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him” (v. 16).
 - a. He fell on his face at Jesus’ feet to say “Thank you.”
 - b. Not only had this man been a leper, he was also a Samaritan, a person with whom the Jews typically had no dealings.

Slide 9**B. JESUS’ REACTION**

“Then Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? “Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?”” (Luke 17:17–18, NASB95)

1. Jesus asked three questions:
 - a. “Were there not ten cleansed?”
 - b. “Where are the other nine?”
 - c. “Was no one found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”
2. Evidently, the other nine lepers were so caught up in their new wholeness that it did not occur to them to return to Jesus and thank Him.
 - a. Were these men grateful? No doubt they were.
 - b. Were they happy about their restoration? Deeply so.
 - c. No doubt they were eager to get back into everyday life.
3. What is the problem?
 - a. God was not the center of their gratitude.
 - b. These men were so earthbound that they missed the spiritual dimension altogether.
 - c. Christ wanted their hearts!

Slide 10**III. How Often Are We Ungrateful . . .**

A. TO OUR PARENTS?

1. There were years when we were dependent upon our parents for everything.
2. There will come a time when our parents, as they age, will need us.
3. How many of us will be willing to repay the debt of gratitude we owe them?

10a

B. TO THOSE AROUND US?

1. How many of us at one time or other have been helped to a great extent by someone outside our immediate family?
2. A school teacher, a friend, an employer, a doctor, a brother or sister in Christ did something for us that we can never repay.
3. In the moment, we tell ourselves that we will never forget their kindness.
4. Have we tried to repay them, or at least said "Thank you"?

10b

C. TO GOD?

1. In a time of great need we prayed desperately to God and He granted our request or did even more than we asked.
2. In the time that has passed since then, have we forgotten Him?
3. Did we take a moment this morning to thank Him for another beautiful day — a day He has given us to worship Him alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ?
4. God gave His only Son to save us. The least we can do is say, "Thank You!"
5. The best thanksgiving we can offer Him is to try and "walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which He has called us" into His kingdom.

Conclusion

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1. The last recorded words which Jesus spoke to that Samaritan are these: “Stand up and go; your faith has made you well” (Luke 17:19).
2. There is an important truth which I hope you will take with you today: believing hearts are hearts that praise and glorify God.
3. As a matter of fact, such praise will be our greatest desire in heaven.

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“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”” (Revelation 5:11–12, NASB95)

4. Sadly, however, the hearts of those who do not know Christ are ungrateful:

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- a. In his letter to the Christians in Rome, Paul wrote of those in the past:

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” (Romans 1:21, NASB95)

- b. In his final letter to Timothy he wrote of what was to come in the future:

“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,” (2 Timothy 3:1–2, NASB95)

5. Only when we ourselves are grateful for all our Lord has done in our lives can we truly be a blessing to those around us.
6. Only then do we shine as a bright light in a world of darkness.
7. Do you need Christ’s saving power in your life today?