

## Give Thanks

**Question: "What does the Bible say about thankfulness/gratitude?"**

**Answer:** Thankfulness is a prominent Bible theme.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** says, <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> **give thanks in all circumstances**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- **Did you catch that?**
- Give thanks in **all** circumstances.
- Our Joy, prayers, and thankfulness **should NOT fluctuate** with our circumstances or feelings...
- **Obeying these three commands** – be joyful, pray continually, and **give thanks** – often goes against our natural inclinations...
- **Thankfulness** should be a way of life for us...

Digging into the Scriptures a little more deeply, we understand **why we should be thankful** and also **how to have gratitude** in different circumstances.

### **Luke 17:11-19** – NIV - *Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy*

<sup>11</sup> Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

<sup>12</sup> As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy<sup>[a]</sup> met him. They stood at a distance

<sup>13</sup> and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

<sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said, **"Go, show yourselves to the priests."** And **as they went, they were cleansed.**

<sup>15</sup> One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

<sup>16</sup> He threw himself at Jesus' feet and **thanked him (giving Him thanks)** —and he was a Samaritan.

<sup>17</sup> Jesus asked, **"Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"**

<sup>18</sup> **Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?"**

<sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, **"Rise and go; your faith has made you well."**

The preacher came over to visit unexpectedly. Wanting to make a good impression, the lady of the house instructed her little daughter, ***"Please run and get that good book we all love so much and bring it here."***

The daughter trotted off and then returned in a minute with triumph on her face, and the Sears catalogue in her hands! 😊

***Our human nature is to ask, ask, ask.***

And in this case, as with most children, this little girl's choice of reading material was a book full of material things of which she had made a wish list, and not the Book of Spiritual and Physical things in which we need to make our focal point.

***It is the Bible, not material possessions which will teach us what response God is looking to receive from us.***

***That response is, Uncommon Thanks!***

Jesus expresses concern in (**vs. 18**) “*was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner (Samaritan)?*”

***Two Differences between the Jews and the Samaritans.***

- Jews & Samaritans ***hated each other***
- Jews would go to great lengths to ***bypass Samaria on a Journey***
- Even though they had common roots in their heritage they preferred to feel as if they had nothing in common.

***Some things brought these 9 Jews and 1 Samaritan together.***

**What was it?**

**a. Their common affliction. (Leprosy was the most feared illness in that time.)**

**vs. 12** - tells us that these 10 lepers “***stood at a distance***”

- They were **not allowed** to come near anybody.
- They **had to keep** a distance of a minimum of six feet from others.
- Furthermore, lepers **were not allowed to live within the walls of any city.**
- They **were cast out** and completely avoided by everyone.

**Leviticus 13:45-46 - NIV**

<sup>45</sup> “Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkept, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’<sup>46</sup> As long as they have the disease they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.

**They suffered together in the agony of their affliction**

**b. Their common need for mercy.**

**(They)** called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity (**mercy**) on us!" (**vs. 13**)

**c. Their common faith.**

· They must have heard of the authority and healing power of Jesus.

**d. Their common cleansing.**

**vs. 14** tells us, "And as they went, they were cleansed"

**\*\*\*Is your trust in God so strong that you act on what he says even before you see evidence that it will work?????**

Even though these 9 Jews and 1 Samaritan had so many common experiences that had pulled them together across generations of prejudice and pride.

**Something at the last separated them again!**

**Something pulled this 10 member gang of lepers apart.**

**What was it?**

In **vs. 18 Jesus proclaims –**

"Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this **foreigner?**"

- The word foreigner that Jesus used here is the same word that was inscribed on the wall of the temple to describe those who could not enter!

This gives us great insight into the faith of this Samaritan!

- **He took Jesus at His word** and began a journey to see the priest
- **The priest would have never seen this man...**
- They **would have considered him to be worthless!**

Not only was this man **a leper**, he was also **a Samaritan – a race despised by the Jews** as idolatrous half-breeds....

Once again **Luke is pointing out that God's Grace is for everybody!!!**

### **After the healing**

- The 9 Jews still had the priest to go to so they could be declared clean.
- The 9 Jews still had the law to fulfill so they could be considered good Jews

### **The 1 Samaritan had nowhere to go to but back to Jesus!**

- Jesus was the source of his healing.
- Jesus was the one who had shown him the mercy he did not deserve.

### **This foreigner had no desire to go back to his previous false religion.**

- The Samaritan religion lacked the power to heal him
- The Samaritan religion had failed to show him mercy
- This Samaritan only wanted to go one place... BACK TO JESUS!

We can presume a lot of things – but the greatest cause to separate this Samaritan from the 9 Jews – was his Uncommon Thankfulness!

How about us? We're thankful and it's uncommon – It's a choice!!!!

There were some powerful results of the Samaritans uncommon gratefulness.

#### **1. He touched Jesus!**

vs. 16 *"He threw himself on Jesus' feet..."*

- Out of the 10 who were healed this Samaritan was the only one who got to touch Jesus!

#### **2. Jesus made him well.**

vs. 19 "Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Some Bible scholars say...

"The word "well" is from the same word that is used in the New Testament to describe salvation.

***There are some striking similarities between this story in Scripture and ourselves.***

**a. Our common affliction has brought us together – Sin.**

- It is an affliction that brought us together – because we have all suffered from it.
- It is a disease that has contaminated each of us and caused us to be outcast from the family of God.
- It is a disease which is fatal to the soul no one can cure it

**\*\*Except, the Great Physician.**

The Bible says, ***“All*** have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

- We have all shared in the affliction of sin.

**BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT WILL SET US APPART FROM MOST OTHERS....**

***An Uncommon Thankfulness!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ☺***

**1. Those who are *sincerely thankful***

- Get to experience the joy of touching the heart of God.

**2. Those who express an *uncommon thankfulness* to the master**

- ***Are the ones who experience cleansing of sin –***
- And get to ***experience the Joy of being made well!***

***If anyone has a reason to be Uncommonly Thankful –  
It is us!!!!!! ☺***

**Close:**

***Psalm 136:1*** says, ***“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.”***

Here ***we have two reasons to be thankful: God’s constant goodness and His steadfast love.***

When we recognize **the nature of our depravity** and understand that, **apart from God, there is only death**

**1) Have you had the faith to call out to Jesus for a cleansing from sin?**

Or are you still **alienated in the camp of sin** – *living a hopeless life?*

**2) If you have experienced the Cleansing of the Lord.....**

- How often do you return to and **fall at His feet**
- **and touch Him with your thankfulness?**

IF YOU HAVE FAILED TO BE **UNCOMMONLY THANKFUL** –

IT IS THANKSGIVING SEASON –

NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN LIVING WITH **UNCOMMON THANKFULNESS!!!!**