

Thankful

In this message, **The Thankful**, *The Bible sets unthankful people apart from thankful people.*

- It lets us know that to be unthankful is a sin, a grievous sin, as it should be.
- Would churches and pastors and good people and even the Lord Himself continue doing good to others if it weren't for the few that do come back and say, "Thank you."
- Every now and then someone says, "I really appreciate your help."
- "You have no idea how much your help means to me right now."
- **Thankful people**, what a blessing they are.
- **Everything**; every good day, every pay raise, every good Dr. report, every help, every encouragement, every big and every little thing that encourages and blesses our life we should be **thankful to God for**.
- **Without that thankfulness** we almost assuredly hinder the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Psalm 100:4 - ⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name.

Have you ever heard the phrase, "**No good deed goes unpunished?**" Sadly, this is too often a true statement.

The reason this is too often true is because **those who the good deed is bestowed upon are unthankful.**

Un-thankfulness

2 Timothy 3:2 - ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers (abusive), disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Here the great **Apostle Paul is writing** to his son in the gospel, **Timothy**.

In chapter three, **Paul warns Timothy** that in the last days there would come a spirit into the world that would cause much trouble for the church.

Here in verse two, he tells Timothy that among the "lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers (Abusive), disobedient to parents, and unholy" **would be people who were unthankful.**

One may never expect that unthankful people would receive such a harsh judgment.

Is being unthankful really such a bad thing? Why put it right before "unholy" in verse two????

Hebrews 12:14 - Warning and Encouragement - ¹⁴ *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

So, if a lack of holiness would keep one from seeing the Lord, what would be the result of being unthankful?

One thing is true in every circle and that is that not everyone appreciates what you do for them.

No matter how hard you try to please some people they are never going to completely appreciate what you have done or at least the effort you have put into something.

There are some people in this world and even in the church who are simply unthankful people.

Being thankful is not a natural state of mind for most people.

Being thankful comes from knowing want. It comes from not having.

A woman will be thankful for the husband she has when she understands what it means to not have a good husband.

A man will be thankful for the job he has when he has gone through a long period of time where he had no job.

Being broke teaches you how to be thankful.

Being sick teaches you how to be thankful for painless days.

Near death sickness teaches you how to be thankful for each day.

Being lonely teaches you how to be thankful for someone who goes out of their way to be your friend.

Thankful people are usually people who have been down the road of adversity.

They are people who know what it means to struggle.

They are people who have not had the world handed to them on a silver platter.

They worked hard to get where they are at.

They endured much expense and labor to reach a certain place.

They did all they could and when that failed, they prayed to Jesus before the help came, so they know where their help comes from.

The Bible sets unthankful people apart from thankful people.

It lets us know that to be unthankful is a sin, a grievous sin, as it should be.

When someone does something for you, the response of your heart and your lips should be "Thank You!"

Whether it's God, your next-door neighbor, someone in the church, or even a stranger.

When someone gives you something that belongs to them; time, money, prayer, love, the response should be thankful.

And our thanks should always be directed to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:20 - ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Everything; every good day, every pay raise, every good Dr. report, every help, every encouragement, every big and every little thing that encourages and blesses our life we should be thankful to God for.

Without that thankfulness we almost assuredly hinder the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Luke 17:12-19 - ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

What an amazing miracle. What an amazing testimony.

Leprosy in that day was thought to be disease that came from extreme filth.

- **Leprous people were not allowed** to walk on the same side of the street as everyone else.
- When they walked into towns or around other people, **they had to holler out. “Unclean, Unclean”**

Can you imagine **the social stigma** that these 10 men faced every day of their lives?

They were unable to even be around their families.

- They had to watch their children grow up from a distance.
- They lived in colonies of **other leprous people**.
- They were surrounded every day with the **sickness** of others and the **stench** of their own disease.

So, these 10 men cry out to Jesus for their healing, and **He healed them**, but of the 10 men who were healed, only **one** was **truly thankful**.

He wasn’t in a hurry to go show himself to the priest so he could be admitted back into society and his family.

Look at this with me...

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

While the **9 unthankful** went on their way, **this one man falls on his face at the feet of Jesus** and cries out with a loud voice in thanksgiving, glorifying God.

Jesus noticed a distinct difference between this man and the other 9.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not **all ten cleansed**? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God **except this foreigner**?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, **“Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”**

Jesus asks the question, **“Where are the other 9?”**

- **10** were cleansed, but **only one is thankful**.
- **What happened** to the other 9?

Jesus made mention of the fact that some people appreciate when something good is done for them and **some don't**.

In fact, the percentage of unthankful people in this account of **Jesus's ministry** is alarming.

90% of the people in this miracle **were unthankful**.
But **Praise God** for the 10%.

Thank God for the few that come back and say **“Thank you”**

If it wasn't for them, I wonder what would happen.

I wonder if churches and pastors and good people and even the Lord Himself **would continue doing good to others** if it weren't for the few that do come back and say, “Thank you.”

- Every now and then someone says, **“I really appreciate your help.”**
- “You have no idea how much your help means to me right now.”
- **Thankful people**, what a blessing they are.

Look what Jesus did for the Thankful man, that He didn't do for the other 9 men who scurried off in a hurry to get about their lives.

¹⁹ **Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well (whole).”**

- **“Your Faith has made you well.”**

The man was expressing thankfulness, but Jesus accounted it to Him for Faith.

- ***That's powerful.....***

People say all the time, ***“Give me more faith.” Maybe we should be more thankful!!!***

As many of you know, ***leprosy causes the flesh to die*** off on its victims' bodies. Literally, their fingers and toes and other extremities fall off.

As well, **they lose the ability to feel pain** which causes them to do great harm to their bodies without even knowing it much of the time.

There is a difference between being healed of leprosy and being made whole as the thankful man was.

Many bible scholars believe the original 9 men went away healed of leprosy, but still carrying the scars of their sickness and its devastation to their bodies.

On the other hand, ***the thankful man left that day*** not only healed of the terrible disease, but also ***“made whole.”***

In other words, ***The Lord restored what the sickness stole from him.***

This could ***mean even more than his body being restored to its original state***, but also his relationships with other people like his family, and even his place of status within the community.

However, you look at it, ***Jesus did something more for the thankful man*** than He did for ***the unthankful men***.

Here is why our worship is so important:

It is showing our thankfulness for His love for us and what He has done in our lives.

It brings into our lives that reward the Bible talks about.

- The extra blessing.
- The added bonus.
- The thing that not everybody else gets.

CLOSE:

Why don't you think about what you have to be thankful for today?

Why not make a list of the things the Lord has brought you through and **tell Him one more time; "Thank You."**

The Thankful, *The Bible* sets unthankful people apart from thankful people.

- ***It lets us know*** that to be unthankful is a sin, a grievous sin, as it should be.

Why not lift our hands and *yield ourselves to Him* with thanksgiving today?

Without that thankfulness we almost assuredly hinder the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives.