

## BLESSINGS OF A THANKFUL LIFE PART 2

# *We'll continue discussing today: The Blessings of a Thankful Life*

*A thankful attitude helps our surroundings correspond with our efforts; on the other hand, thanklessness puts us at a disadvantage because our surrounding resists our efforts.*

*In Luke 17:11-19 the importance of being thankful is revealed.*

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. **12.** Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar of

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*(Notice these Lepers had to follow the protocols of their day to practice social distancing as it was the law).*

**13.** And they lifted up *their* voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

- *These ten lepers believed Jesus possessed the power and authority of God to heal their leprosy.*

**Verse 14:** So when He saw *them*, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

- *Notice: lepers couldn't participate with community without the priest clearing them for reentry into society.*
- *Healing of the ten lepers occurred as they followed the instructions of Jesus with a significant degree of faith.*

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- **Verse 15**, And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, 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.

*This Samaritan demonstrated his faith with proper gratitude when he recognized what Jesus had done for him; he then returned to celebrate the source of his blessings.*

- *Anything Unrecognized becomes uncelebrated.*
- *Anything Uncelebrated becomes unrewarded.*
- *Anything Uncelebrated eventually exits our life.*

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- *When gratitude dies on the altar of our hearts, we become disqualified to get what God has next for us.*

**Verse 17** So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? **18.** Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”

- *Notice: The Ingratitude of the nine lepers took them away from God, while the Grateful heart of the Samaritan drew him closer to God.*

**James 4:6** And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

*(New Living Translation)*

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- *The nine healed lepers felt they were entitled because of their Jewish heritage, they were only concerned with their own physical healing instead of showing being grateful to God.*
- *The only thing the foreigner had in common with the nine others was their leprosy.*

**Verse 19** And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”  
(NKJV)

- *A thankful heart is a thermometer that monitors the temperature of our faith.*
- *Ingratitude is when we don't think much about the things God has done for us.*

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- *Gratitude is not a part of our nature. Anything we have to be taught to do is not a part of our nature; and anything we do without being taught is a part of our nature.*
- *A thankful heart finds comfort in everything; an ungrateful mind finds comfort in nothing.*

***Philippians 4:11-13*** Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. **12.** I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of contentment in every situation, whether it be a full stomach or hunger, plenty or want;

- *How we react in a crisis is based on a learned behavior.*

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*Paul is saying I learned how to adjust with the ups and downs of life and will not be defined by circumstance.*

**Verse 13** For I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power. *(The Living Bible)*

- *We should not be thankful to the Lord because things in life are good; rather, we should be thankful because His goodness makes everything, He provides good; and, He (God) has our best interest at heart.*

**1 Corinthians 2:9** But as it is written: *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (NKJV)*

- *The reason we can be thankful is everything God has for us will come to us.*

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***Psalm 103:1–5*** Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me,  *bless* His holy name! **2.** Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: **3.** Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **4.** Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, **5.** Who satisfies your mouth with good  *things*,  *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's. *(NKJV)*

- *God's greatest pleasure is when we are thankful for what we have; His greatest displeasure is when we choose to be ungrateful.*

***Romans 1:20–22*** says, For since the creation of the world His invisible  *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,



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*even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **21.** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**22.** Professing to be wise, they became fools, (NKJV)

*God's greatest displeasure with the children of Israel was their constant attitude of complaining about everything from their Egyptian deliverance to their journey to the Promised land. It was much easier for God to deliver them out of Egyptian bondage than to change their ungrateful mindset in the wilderness.*

*For example, in Numbers 11, The children of Israel were always complaining about something. They complained because they*

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*had no water; when water was supplied, they complained it was bitter to their taste. (Exodus, 15: 22-25) They complained about not having food and when it was provided, they complained about the kind of food provided. Exodus, 16: They complained about not having meat, so God give them meet that they end up suffocating on.*

**Verse 1 Says,** Now *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard *it*, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed *some* in the outskirts of the camp. (NKJV)

- **Notice:** *The Israelites always compared their experience with God to their Egyptian experience.*

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***Numbers 11:4–6***, Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat? **5.** We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; **6.** but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!” (NKJV)

- *Their unthankful attitude caused them to overlook their past victories and focus instead on what failure looked like from their point of view.*

*In the Scriptures unthankfulness is listed with covetousness and blasphemy!*

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**2 Timothy 3:1-5** You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. **2.** For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. **3.** They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. **4.** They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. **5.** They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! (NLT)