

Where Are the Nine?

Introduction

Luke 17:11-19

1. Among the graces that are associated with our human character, gratitude is among the most prominent.
2. These ten lepers that Jesus healed and its results illustrate the great danger of ingratitude.
3. We should ask of ourselves this afternoon: "In which class of people does our Savior locate us?"
 - A. Are we among the "nine" or the "one?"

The Ten Lepers Healed

1. Leprosy is a corrosive, repulsive and incurable disease.
 - A. These ten lepers stood afar off - secluded.
 - B. Lepers were not allowed to mix with non-lepers.
 - 1) This case represents sin, which separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. **But your iniquities have separated you from your God;** and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

- a) Often times lepers went together; they were bound by a common interest and sympathetic cords.

2. Ten of these lepers met Jesus and cried for mercy.
 - A. Jesus had the power to heal them.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore **He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him**, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- B. These lepers were cleansed "as they went." This was a test of their faith (V19).
3. Now let's take a look at the results:

- A. One showed gratitude - 10%
- B. Nine were indifferent - 90%
- C. Jesus makes a statement to the one who returned:
"Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"
NOTE THAT THEY ALL:

- 1) Had the same disease - leprosy (sin)
- 2) Had the same condition - afar off (unclean)
- 3) Came to the same person - Jesus (physician)
- 4) Cried for the same thing - mercy (helpless)
- 5) All told to do the same thing - go (obey)
- 6) All received the same blessing - made clean
- 7) Only ONE returned, the least one expected - a Samaritan

What We Should Be Thankful For

1. Be thankful that our names are written in heaven.

Revelation 21:27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but **only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

Luke 10:20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather **rejoice because your names are written in heaven.**"

2. Be thankful for salvation - that we have been cleansed from sin!
Romans 6:17-23

3. Be thankful that God sent His son to die for us.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners,** Christ died for us.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might **taste death for everyone.**

4. Be thankful for all the temporal things we have.

- A. As we walk in the steps of Christ, we can be thankful for the things in life that He has allowed us to enjoy!

Colossians 2:6-7 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, **abounding in it with thanksgiving.**

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall **supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- B. We would not think of eating the Lord's Supper without giving thanks to God --- yet how many eat their meals at home without thanking God for it -- following the example of Jesus!

Mark 8:6-7 So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves **and gave thanks**, broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and they set them before the multitude. They also had a few small fish; and having blessed them, He said to set them also before them.

5. Be thankful for our Christian fellowship.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to **thank God always for you, brethren**, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

6. Be thankful for all things that we have been given in this life.

Ephesians 5:20 **giving thanks always for all things** to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

7. All of our thanksgiving should go to God through Jesus Christ. **Colossians 3:17**

Conclusion

1. What are the results of ingratitude?
Romans 1:20-25
2. May we always be mindful of our blessings and thank God for them.
3. Jesus said: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."
 - A. Will He be an unwelcome guest because of ingratitude?
 - B. Why not open the door of your heart and bid Him welcome — returning to Him often to thank Him for all the blessings He has freely given to us.

