

The Ten, the Nine, and the One

Luke 17:11-19

In Luke 17 we have a story that is reenacted countless times in society today. It is a story of how most people fail to express thanksgiving.

One of the signs of the last days is a prevalence of ingratitude (2 Tim. 3:1-2).

For example, in the December 12, 2001 issue of *USA Today* — A South African man surprised nine men robbing his home. 8 of the robbers ran away, but the homeowner managed to shove one into his backyard pool.

After realizing the robber couldn't swim, the homeowner jumped in to save him.

Once out of the pool, the wet thief called to his friends to come back, so he shoved him in again!

- Thanksgiving is more than a holiday we celebrate—it is a condition of the heart!
- More than a DAY—it is a DUTY.
- Thanksgiving is not an OPTION. It is an OBLIGATION!
- No commands in the Bible to celebrate CHRISTMAS or EASTER, but we are commanded to always give thanks in all things!
- Thanksgiving, is the closest SCRIPTURAL holiday America celebrates.

Only a turkey WOULDN'T like Thanksgiving!

➡ **BACKGROUND** (v. 11): Jesus making His last trip to Jerusalem. In one week He would be crucified. As He passes through a Samaritan village He is met by 10 lepers.

I. What was SOUGHT by the ten? (vs. 12-14).

A. Their **CONDITION** of leprosy (v. 12).

1. Vicious bacterial infection of the flesh.
2. It begins on the inside and eventually shows up on the flesh and rapidly spreads and becomes worse.

3. Once it shows up, a leper has only a short time before it kills him.
 4. Highly contagious. Therefore, lepers had to live separated in a leper colony (v. 12—“...stood afar off.”). Leviticus 13:45-46 says, “*And the leper in whom the plague is, ...shall cry, Unclean, unclean. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be.*” **Loneliness.**
 - What would it be like to never be touched? No time with your family. No hugs, no hand-shakes, no kisses.
 5. Incurable/hopeless—Only a miracle could change their condition.
 6. **A TYPE OF SIN.**
 - a) Sin starts on the inside and manifests itself in the works of the flesh.
 - b) Sin separates us from God!
 - c) Every unsaved person is dead in sin (Eph. 2:1-5).
 - d) Incurable apart from God. You cannot cure yourself... a church cannot cure you... a ritual cannot cleanse you from sin. Jesus Christ is the only answer for your sin.
- B. Their CRY for mercy (v. 13).
1. They did not ask for healing—They cried for mercy. Mercy is not getting what we deserve.
 2. God’s ears are open to a cry for mercy (cf. Luke 18:10-14).
 3. The LORD wouldn't have healed if they did not ask. If you want to be saved, you must call— “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*” (Rom. 10:13).
- C. The COMMAND of the Lord (v. 14).
1. Jesus didn’t touch them as He healed other lepers. Jesus simply told them to go show themselves to the priest.

2. The idea here is that only the priest could pronounce them clean. To go to the priest was to believe they would be healed.
3. Jesus could have just healed them, THEN tell them to go to the priest. But that would not have required any faith.
4. When Naaman was healed for his leprosy, he was told to go dip in the Jordan seven times (2 Kings 5). Nothing happened until he acted in faith and did what he was told.
5. If these 10 lepers believed Jesus, they would simply start walking in faith to go to the priest. They did and they were instantly healed.

➔ Salvation is putting your faith and trust in what God has said (Rom. 10:9-10, 13).

II. What was **SPOKEN** by the one? (vs. 15-16)

- How many were healed? ALL TEN!
 - How long did it take for them to be healed? Immediately.
 - How many returned to give thanks to Jesus? ONE.
- A. He gave a PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION of gratitude (v. 15).
 1. TURNED to Jesus!
 2. LOUD VOICE! [*“Loud”* - Gk. *megas* / *“Voice”* - Gk. *phone*]. He was not ashamed of what Jesus did for him. He wanted everyone to know!
 3. GLORIFIED GOD!
 4. FELL AT JESUS’ FEET. Worship and submission.
 5. GIVING THANKS. He expressed his gratitude.
 - ➔ As one country farmer said, “What’s down in the well, comes up in the bucket.” *“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh!”*
 - B. He received a PERSONAL DECLARATION of blessing (v. 19).
 1. He GOT something the other nine didn’t GET! ALL ten got MERCY, but he got GRACE!

2. Ten were healed on the outside, but he was **made whole on the inside.**

➡ With tears of joy, he walks away singing, "Thank you, Lord for saving my soul, thank you Lord for making me whole."

III. What was **SHOWN** by the nine?

➡ What happened to the nine—Overjoyed, they probably ran to show themselves to the priest so he could confirm them clean, then ran home to be reunited with their families.

➡ They got so caught up in the *gift* that they forgot the *Giver*.

➡ It appears that the ratio of people who are truly thankful is only one out of ten. Sad statistic.

SUMMATION: How often do we neglect to express our gratitude to God.

- At the end of a workday, do you ever take time to say, "Thank You, Lord, for giving me the skill, ability, and health to do my work today?"
- Do you ever go through your house and thank God for your furniture... appliances... the roof over your head... food in your cupboard... running water in your kitchen and bathrooms... and warmth from a furnace?
- Do you thank God for a vehicle to get you from place to place.
- When was the last time you thanked God for the clothes you wear on your back?
- Have you told the Lord lately, "Thank You Lord, for my Bible... my church... my freedom?"

When we take for granted these things, we are no better than the nine who failed return and thank God for what He has done for us.

➡ If you are not saved this morning, Jesus will save you if you call upon Him for mercy. Will you come and be saved today.

➡ Don't be a turkey like the NINE—Follow the example of the ONE made whole. Will you come and tell Jesus, THANK YOU, LORD for saving my soul?