



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 85 "An Attitude of Gratitude" By Pastor Jody May

Luke 17:11-19 ESV

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee.¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."¹⁴When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed.¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice;¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.¹⁷Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

The challenges of everyday are not to be feared anymore as something you can fail, but are something to be celebrated for they were given to you by God, for a reason.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Why?

James 1:2-3 ESV

"³Count it all joy my brothers, when you meet trial of various kinds. ⁴For you know that the testing of your faith produce steadfastness,..."

1. An Attitude of Gratitude is Prepared by Real Needs

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee.¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."



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Gratitude is **never born** out of a complacent and content heart, but it is born out of a heart that has **felt true need**. In Luke 15 we spent three weeks going through the parable of the prodigal son. In part one of the story we find the youngest son, living with pigs in the filth eating their food. While he was in this prostrate position he recalls his father, and how good his father really was to him, and he rises up out of the mud and goes home basing his future **not on** how he can sweet talk his father but **based on** how **good** his dad is.

This unfortunately is the way that all people must come to God, even the really well-behaved ones. There is a point in one’s life when you realize it doesn’t matter how good you can dress up, if you have rejected God’s will for your life, then you are living in the metaphorical pig sty.

The **lepers in the story** represent how it is that true disciples come to Jesus. It is a picture of everyone’s spiritual condition, their need for Christ, and even then, we see when a need is filled in their lives only **“1”, a remnant**, will ever truly turn and follow Jesus.

These particular lepers were in dire need and we see that from the setting in the story. First the disease itself, leprosy, is a grotesque, debilitating, and an isolating disease. The disease is a bacterium that destroys nerve endings and creates ulcers. I don’t want to go too far down this road but in the end, you are ready to be an extra on the walking dead set, that is not an over exaggeration.

Some of you thought it was bad with COVID isolation but upon contracting leprosy you were excommunicated from the very town you called home, this was the prescribed treatment. Not only this, your family couldn’t see you because they were responsible to feed you outside the town limits. As well, you were looked down upon because people viewed this as a curse from God because of your sin or your father’s sin.

These particular lepers were so desperate that they braved leaving a leper colony and it seems that they snuck into the entrance of a village. In this day that would have gotten you chased out by a mob with rocks. They then revealed themselves, brought attention to themselves, and cried out for Jesus, calling Him Master



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(v13). In the NT when Jesus is called “**Master**”, it is recognition by that person that Jesus could do miracles. It also meant that you were confessing publically, against the pharisees will, that Jesus was connected to the divine!

In order to risk stoning, in order to risk death, **these lepers had to be desperate for Jesus to save them.** They had gotten to the point in their lives where they were tired of hiding and in desperation, and so they throw themselves at the one they had already put some measure of faith in.

Look, I want us all to see something here today. Perhaps you have been going through the motions in your religious life. You casually read the Bible, you pray but not that often, you give but not that steadily, you serve but not so committedly and you have noticed that you don’t know if Jesus really answers your prayers or not?

Perhaps it’s not the fact that He won’t answer you but like these lepers you have not gotten desperate enough to throw all your cares out the window, you have not stopped worrying yet about what others may think about you, you haven’t really looked in the mirror and seen the spiritual leprous ulcers on your face. *Remember leprosy is dangerous because you can’t feel it!* But for a disciple of Christ to be His, we all have to go through that time of “I have surrendered my dignity and I am willing to cry out to Jesus fully believing that He can Rescue me!” It may happen in front of those that judge you, or you value their opinion, or you hide your personal life from. Have you had your pig sty revelation yet?

An Attitude of Gratitude only comes through the heart of the person that has truly felt the deep heart need for Jesus.

2. An Attitude of Gratitude is Born with a Recognition of God

¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests. ”And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.



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Again, these lepers show a measure of trust and faith in the abilities of Jesus when they obey the command to go and show the priest. Not one of them protested, not one of them said do you understand who we are, not one of them said have you seen me, but they left at His word. We also need to take notice that the miracles (10) didn't happen UNTIL they actually left and went looking for the priests.

Can you imagine being there in that moment when ulcers closed, fingers grew back, hair was restored, because **in order to be accepted** by the priest their appearance would have had to be changed. I didn't say this yet but, in those days, there was no cure for leprosy, you just got it and it was a gamble to see how long you survived it. To walk to the priest and present yourselves would have shown that these lepers did believe in the power of God and that it had worked for their good.

But one of these lepers gives pause. He stops as the others walk on. He turns and walks back to Jesus. For one man, there was something even more amazing happening that day. A deeper more desperate need was being filled. He was recognizing the connection between leprosy and his spiritual condition,

Lamentations 3:1-8;21-24 ESV

I am the man who has seen affliction
under the rod of his wrath;

² he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;

³ surely against me he turns his hand
again and again the whole day
long.

⁴ He has made my flesh and my skin
waste away;

he has broken my bones;

⁵ he has besieged and enveloped me
with bitterness and tribulation;

⁶ he has made me dwell in darkness
like the dead of long ago.

⁷ He has walled me about so that I
cannot escape;

he has made my chains heavy;

⁸ though I call and cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer;

²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²² The steadfast love of
the Lord never ceases;

his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ “The Lord is my portion,” says my



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soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

It says he went back and cried out in a loud voice, every time we see that in Luke it shows that either a person or even a demon is recognizing divinity in Jesus! And then he fell at Jesus’ feet and gave thanks eucharisteō, the word used in this moment is the same word used 37 times in the NT to describe not only giving verbal thanks but feeling thankful to God. The man recognizes that God has delivered Him, and just like the father in the prodigal son, the man thought about his heavenly Father and how steadfast good He was, and he came back to the one that stood for Him.

Gratitude for a disciple is born out of the recognition that you have been touched by the divine, that new life has been given, that something like death has passed over you, that you have passed through a wilderness and were delivered.

Perhaps in here today, Jesus has been answering your prayers then let me ask you have you turned around in in awe, in worship, in praise, in thankfulness have you ever fallen down on your face and given his praise, have you yelled at the top of your lungs, even in the quiet of your own closet? If not, I don’t know if you have ever met Him?

Because an Attitude of Gratitude is born out of the Heart that has been changed by Jesus.

3. An Attitude of Gratitude is Expected by God

¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”

I have often deliberated how did Jesus state these questions or any questions for that matter in the NT when he asks where are those that should have recognized Him as the Messiah? Then I thought to myself Jesus didn’t sin; he doesn’t heal and disbelieve. He heals and is alarmed to see that they didn’t respond. Jesus lives by the Father’s Word of life and He is always in His **prayers giving thanks to**



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God for what He is doing. It is the expectation of everyone changed by God to do the same...

Colossians 3:17 ESV

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

As Disciples we are called to set standards of Praise. Instead we have been plagued by entitlement, I should have this.... The lepers in the story had it. They left without giving thanks being more concerned to being deemed clean so they could go back home, back to their friends, their families, their way of lives. In the end though when Jesus saves us from our spiritual leprosy if we only use it to enjoy this world it still leads to a spiritually dead eternity.

Mark 8:35-36 ESV

³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

Family are you running back to the world every time you get out of trouble? Are you running back to old bad habits when conviction lightens up? Are you so quick to get back to the grind when God gave us all a respite in the spring to evaluate our lives?

Do we fully understand the Substitutionary Atonement, what Jesus had to do to deliver out of our leprous state?

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

We must realize that Jesus didn't just remove our spiritual leprosy, He endured an **unfair exchange for it; He was our substitute.** Jesus didn't just remove our disease of spiritual leprosy he took it from us and bore it. In return He gave us His righteousness, His cleanness. He bore the ugliness of our sins, He displayed it on



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the cross, He was buried with it so it could never touch us again, and He left it there when He rose again. Jesus now bears the scars in His hands and in His sides, that disease should have left on us so that we may continuously for eternity give the proper thanks and praise for what He has done.

Acts 4:12 ESV

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

An Attitude of Gratitude is what is expected by God because it is what His disciples want to give Him for all that He has done. Is that you today?

4. An Attitude of Gratitude is a Sign of Faith

¹⁹ And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

The translation in the Greek is **sozo** - your faith has **saved** you. You don't have to go to the priest, there's no more need for that. Go your way, separate from the other 9. You now have that which will give you eternal life, Faith. Just so we keep this in context, remember this is Luke writing to the Gentiles. Jesus just declared the Samaritan, the foreigner saved. He has been adopted into the fold. He who was far away Jesus has brought nearby His work.

Our Attitude of Gratitude family is not dependent on what have you done lately for me God? It is not dependent on whether I was born poor or rich or if I have privileges that others don't. Our Attitude of Gratitude is not dependent on whether I was born healthy or sick for a healthy person is as at much of a disadvantage as the rich person for they can depend on their health for their livelihood. Our Attitude of Gratitude is not dependent on what color you are, what ethnicity you are, or even if you are treated differently because of it, because Gratitude comes from knowing Jesus has saved you from a fate worse than this earthly life and death.

The world says culture must change, governments must be toppled, history needs to be rewritten, governmental controlled equity must be established in order for



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us to be satisfied with who we are. **The Gospel says our attitude changes when we are satisfied with who He is.** Change in the world comes from focusing on the elevation of Christ not man. You want to do the world a favor praise God publicly for who He is and what He has done for that is what true Disciples do.

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that may allow spiritual disease to ravish our lives so that in this world we may see our true need for Him.

Go in the name of the Son, that loved us enough, to exchange our spiritual empty morality with His Righteousness so we may not know the sting of eternal death

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that opens our eyes to who Jesus truly is, so we may live in constant gratitude affecting the world around us.