

What Do You Forget to Thank God For?

- One most imp lssns any/us cld ever learn; lssn my prnts tght me; lssn as prnt I tch my chldrn: always say TU! I remem when little boy: whnvr I'd get bday gift from aunt/uncle/grprnt – taught to always call on phone & thank. Gma L, Boxcar Chldrn, TU. Now as adult, when smone gives gift, like write TU note, email, or talk in prsn. And when our chldrn young & given smthng nice, what's 1st thng we do? Remind: "What you say?" bec very imp say TU – polite, courteous, shows apprctn. Never want forget say TU.
- Today in Gos, 9 men forget say TU to J. No call/card/email, no remndr fr prnt: what you say? No show of gratd. And J notices it. **Vs. 17.** J notices ingrattd. I think that shld remind all/us today of imprtnc of thanking God for all his blessings – and also make us stop/think: what we/you forget thank God for?
- Here in Lk 17, J on journey. **Vs. 11.** Heading to Jerslm: suffer/die sins/wrld. And along way, perfirms many mrcls, incl mrcl we see here: **vs. 12-13.**
- 10 lepers w/leprsy – know how trbbl disease leprsy is? Skin disease like psoriasis/eczema, but many times worse. Painful blisters/sores grow/sprd acrss whole bdy (arms/legs/chest/back); lock up fngers/toes (might even lose f/t). Sprd up neck to nose/mouth – think cold sores all over face. Get into throat, make hard speak. Often lose hair. Whole body smell like rotting flsh. And it hurt; very painful, ev time movd! And when those blisters got big engh: break open, ooze out, sprd disease. Why lepers were always covered in bandages. Very contagious; no known cure.
- That's just phys aspect. Also social aspect: if had leprsy, cldn't live w/fam; cldn't even in town. Forced live w/other lepers in leper colony away fr society. Lived in isltn, constant quarntn. Cld nvr spend time w/spouse/chldrn/frnds. If smone you love got leprsy, had send them away; about all you cld do for them: make them meal & leave it smwhere for them to come & pick up.
- Finally, relgs aspect. Made you cermnly unclean, so not allwd wrshp at tmpl. Until healed, cldn't come ch. Had be cleared by priest before allowed back in; why J told them show selves to priests. So leprsy: this trbbl/painful/debilitng/contagious disease that cast you out society/ch. Been called "living death."
- So you can undrstnd why these 10 lepers, when heard J coming, **vs. 12b-13.** And today we get see: pity & compssn, mercy & love of J. **Vs. 14.** Simple as that. Start wkng/hobbling alng road. And sudnly: boils shrink; rashes clear up; sores heal; pain gone; & skin rejuvnts before very eyes! I bet looked dwn at arms, peeld back bandgs, watchd as btfl/fresh skin just sprd acrss disease-stricken extr. Mrcl taking place on bodies & literally watching it happen! J compltly cures them of trbbl disease of leprsy!
- You know hold this story unfolds. **Vs. 15-16.** Remem: Smrtns & Jews don't normly get along. But this Smrtn so overwhlmd w/grattd: throws self down on ground, clutches J's ankles; & w/tears in eyes, says TU, J! TU! He rememd. Others forgot.
- What you forget thank God for? When you cry out Lord help, & he answr prys, & you just keep wkng dwn road? Remem: J notices ingrattd. Even sounds annoyed: **vs. 17-18.** J notices our ingrattd, too; and watches w/disppntmnt when we just keep walking dwn road, thnklsly forgttng grace we've been shwn. I think we can relate: if you give smone large/generous gift, & they don't even acknwldg you for it, you'd probly feel annoyed, too. Imagine how God feels when we forget say TU.
- What you forget thank God for? I know I'm guilty of praying prayers that are heavy on asks, light on thanks. I disappnt myself when I make reqst of Lord, & he answr pryr, & I still forget thnk him. That ever hap you – where you forget thank God? I think we forget thank God all the time – for big thngs & little/evday thngs. Remem how Luther wordd manifld blssngs/God in Cat (1st Art, Expl): *"And I bel that God still presrvs me... God also presrvs me by defndng... All this God does only..."* Manifld blssngs.
- Smtms we talk re counting blessings. That's impssbl task! There's no way I can remem/list out evthing: Lord does for me; gives to me. But here's what I can do: adopt atttd/grattd, bec when Gos moves me to adopt atttd/grattd, when I adjust my thinking to view evthing in my life as gift fr gracious God, and when I commit to living a life of genuine thanks to my Creator & Preserver – that's my way of **vs. 15b-16a.** We may nvr've had leprsy in our lives; but we're no less blessed than this Smrtn leper; and so therefore, also no less grateful.

- Esp when remem that in Bible, leprsy is also vivid symbol/sin. Just like leprsy is a trrbl, incurbl, deadly disease that ravishes body, so also sin: trrbl, incurbl, deadly disease that ravishes soul. Our sinful nature corrupts us; our sinful behvr contmnts us. Sin destroys rels w/others, & seprts us fr God. Sin is reason we deserve hell. Even have Lenten hymn: *“Come to Calvry’s holy mntn... come defiled without, within; from infection & uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin”* (CW 394). Leprosy is vivid symbol of our sin.
- Which makes J’s healing of these 10 lepers a vivid symbol of our salvtn. Purely out of his grace & love: J saw our fatal condtn & cleansed us, by his blood shed cross. J endured a suffrng much worse than leprsy; he endured torture/crcfxn & agony of being abandnd by God. But by his dth/cross & res/grave, J washed us clean; cleansed/cured/healed/restored us; took trrbl disease/sin upon self! **“Surely he took up our pain & bore our suffrng” (Isa 53:4).** J freed us fr leper colony so we cld live in Fr’s house forvr.
- Do we forget thank J for that? Do we forget let wrds/lives show our grtted to J for evthng he’s done for us & still does for us ev day? What do you forget to thank God for? Today we have a choice to make: will we just keep walking dwn road, thanklessly taking our blessings for granted, like the other 9 lepers? Or will we, like the 1, **vs. 15b-16a**? Evthng good we have comes fr J. *“For all this [we] ought to thank & praise...certainly true!”*

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 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.”



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