

## Give Thanks Sermon – Luke 17

Preached at Supreme Love & Hispanic Service 11/2014, Cloverdale Baptist Church 11/27/22

Luke 17:11-19

**<sup>11</sup> Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. <sup>13</sup> And they lifted up *their* voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”**

**<sup>14</sup> 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.**

**<sup>15</sup> And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup> and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.**

**<sup>17</sup> So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? <sup>18</sup> Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup> And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”**

Verse 12 – As He was entering a village there were 10 men who were lepers but when they met him they were far off.

- They met Jesus but couldn't get close to him or anyone else because of their condition.
- Lev 13:45-46; declared as unclean; live alone; cry “unclean, unclean”.
  - Don't you wish people would do that today and warn you before they try to get close to you.
  - Unclean callers, cry out scam; unclean relationships, unclean politicians, unclean leaders.
- The Law shows us that we are unclean before God.....causes you to come humble.
- They establish an initial and long distance relationship with Jesus by following this key step:
  - Recognizing they were in need. Humbly crying out to Him for help.
- You can't really meet Jesus until you confess and cry out to Jesus. Until you recognize you need Him, you will let your miracle walk on by.
- Don't miss Jesus.

Verse 14 -- Jesus took notice of lepers; no matter how bad we are. God says. If I can do it for lepers. I can do it for you. None of us are too messed up for God to take notice.

Didn't ignore them or their cries. Gave them instructions.

- Their condition didn't cause him to pass them by.
- Their situation didn't keep them from getting an answer.

- It doesn't happen until they cried out; the first move to your miracle may depend on you.

**He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.**

- That doesn't make much sense. They ain't healed...still unclean, still no change. So it sounds pretty silly to go that far to see a priest when you ain't straight right now.
- Silly to go to the church house when you ain't clean.
- But when you have a long distance relationship with Jesus, you don't have to wait to be clean before you head to church.
- I almost missed Jesus because I kept trying to clean myself up before going to church.
- I wish everybody met Jesus before they came to church.

Jesus gives them instructions. Go to church and see the priest. The next two steps to their break-through are:

- They repent or change direction. They change their mind and start to turn to church (step 2)
- Next, they begin to trust in the Word and by faith they start walking (step 3)
- It takes faith; a faith walk says you don't see your break through right now, not experiencing success right now, but you trust the Word you just received from God and you start heading in the right direction and trusting that your miracle is on the way.
- Look at the faith they had in the process. Not clean, but rolling up into the church as if your break-through has already happened.
- Still an outcast, but walking in victory and hope before victory comes your way....that's faith!
- There is a role you need to play in your miracle, it is obeying the Word.
- You might not get healed until you follow His word by faith. If He tells you to go....you ain't wasting your time. It ain't a trick. He is faithful, just follow these three steps.

As they were on their way...obeying the word they received....they noticed they were changed before they got there.

- Cleansed while on the way.
- They were outcasts before, unclean before, but now, just because they went to Jesus and asked for mercy and obeyed....they got blessed, a hook up, cleaned, status has changed.
- Didn't have to go back to what they were before.
- God's got a way of cleaning up unclean things.
- You may not see it yet, but once you start obeying the Word, your breakthrough will catch up to you. Your healing is on the way.

Verse 15 – One of the 10 when he noticed he was healed, went back. The direction in which he was headed, he decided to change course. What made him turn back around?

- He noticed he was changed.

- He knew who was responsible for the change...knew he didn't do it. All he did was obey the Word that he was given.
- On his way back, he got loud with his praise. Gave God glory for what had happened to him. Gave thanks.
- The reason he praised and glorified God was that he recognized he was healed and who did it.
- I can tell when someone has a grateful heart...they don't have a problem giving God the glory and honor and praise...they can get loud with it. They ain't shy about it. They ain't so proper that they can't send up a shout of praise.

Verse 16 – He fell down, face to the ground at his feet and gave thanks. I can tell when someone is really giving true thanks...not just saying it....they are humble with it.

- The same steps he took to get healed, are the same steps he took to give thanks.
  - He recognized he needed to see Jesus because of his change.
  - He changed his mind about going his own way and turned back to find Jesus again.
  - Moved by faith, had a renewed hope. He just had to give him thanks.
- Humble folks know how to give thanks. Some folk will say thanks, but they ain't humble about it.
- I know this man was thankful because he made thanks a part of his praise and worship. Didn't just praise and worship God because he was God.....he also gave thanks for what God had done for him.
- That's real worship. Part of real worship is giving thanks. Giving thanks for what He has done in your life opens the door for God to do more or extra.
- It was a Samaritan who gave thanks....the least likely of the group was the one who gave thanks and appreciated it the most. Often it is the ones you least expect, that will appreciate what you do for them.
- He knew he didn't deserve it so he just had to go back, stop what he was doing and go back and give praise and thanksgiving.
- Some of us need to stop what we're doing and turn around and go back and give God thanks and praise. Too many of us after we get the hook up, go about our lives and never go back to give thanks....like we deserved his mercy. Like that's what's supposed to happen. Like we are just owed this.

Verse 17 – Another reason to give thanks...the healer notices who does and who doesn't give thanks.

- Not only does Jesus notice, he points it out. He asks two important questions.
- Were 10 cleansed? Did 10 get saved? Question today.....has God done anything for you? Has He cleansed you? Has He healed you? Has He saved you? Has He done anything for you? What is your answer?
- Second question.....where are the others who got hooked up? Where are you today in your praise, worship, thanksgiving? Some folks will only return to seek Jesus when the next crisis shows up. When the problem shows up, they show up.

- Most people really don't appreciate what God has done for them. If you don't appreciate or recognize what He has done for you...chances are, you won't give thanks.
- I gotta show up....and give Him thanks, cause I recognize what He did for me.

Verse 18 – Jesus' expectations after the hook up.

- Is there anyone that can come back and give God glory for what He has done? Is this stranger or outcast the only one? People who know they don't deserve it often appreciate it more and praise Him more. Ask Mary about it.
- A stranger....didn't know God for real, didn't really go to church that often and didn't really know about true church and religion but that doesn't mean you can't praise.
- Don't be surprised if strangers who don't go to church appreciate what you've done for them before your own folks do.
- Jesus can recognize an ingrate.
- He calls out ingrates.
- But look at how he hooks up the true worshipper.

Verse 19 – Arise...you can get up from this. When you give thanks and worship...Jesus will lift you up.

- After you been down, Jesus will let you know it is time to get up.
- Can't really get up until you've been down. When you are down for Jesus, He will give you the power and word that will cause you to get up.
- After worship and thanksgiving...you can't help but get up.
- We fall down, but we get up!
- You can go your way now.
- Declares that the man's faith has made him whole.
  - What faith can do for you.
  - By faith that he went back.
  - By faith that he obeyed.
  - By faith that he gave loud praise.
  - By faith that he bowed down.
  - By faith that he gave thanks.
  - By faith that he got up.
  - By faith that Jesus not only healed him but made him whole.
  - There's a big difference in getting a hook up and being made whole.
  - If you praise Him enough; give thanks; have faith....you get extra.
  - Thanksgiving can release a greater blessing.
  - I'm tired of going back just getting a hook up....I want the whole.
- The benefits of thanksgiving
  - Gives God glory
  - Improves your praise and worship
  - Draws you closer in relationship to the King



- Allows you to do what you couldn't do before
- Produces additional blessings and miracles; you'll get more than what you asked for

We have become a Society of ingrates. Who won't say thank you? If you meet Jesus before you go, you'll see the difference. Be the one if no one else does that turns around and gives thanks.