

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

### **Sunday, November 3, 2024**

**Series Title:** The Power of Gratefulness

**Lesson Title:** Jesus Heals the 10 Lepers

**Key Scriptures:** Luke 17:11-19

---

### **Introduction**

Most of us are familiar with the story of Jesus healing the 10 lepers but, in our familiarity, it's easy to miss the profound lessons of faith and gratitude that are hidden in this story. Unlike the many accounts of Jesus' miracles recorded by the writers of the Gospels, the focus of this story is not on the healing itself but on what happens after the miraculous healing. And, to better understand the depth of gratitude expressed by the man who was healed, we must better understand the circumstances he and the other lepers were living with.

Leprosy is a horrendous illness that affects the skin, eyes, nose, and nervous system. It is highly contagious and attacks the body leaving sores, missing fingers and toes, damaged limbs and excruciating pain. In the bible days, there was no treatment for this disease. The nature of the disease also brought with it a great degree of shame and emotional distress as those who were diagnosed with leprosy were quarantined and isolated from their family, friends and the rest of society. Jewish law required that those with leprosy shout, "Unclean, unclean" when people approached, to avoid contaminating others.

Can you imagine how these lepers felt living with this disease? It is no surprise that when the lepers saw Jesus from a distance, out of their pain and desperation they cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us" (Luke

17:13). And guess what? Jesus responded with incredible compassion and healed them all! However, out of the ten, only one had the inclination to return and express his heartfelt gratitude to Jesus.

### **Luke 17:15-16**

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

This story serves as a powerful reminder of how easy it is for us to forget to give thanks and live with an attitude of gratitude unto God. We often find ourselves caught up in the busyness of life, taking God's blessings for granted. But, we can learn so much from that one grateful leper who returned to Jesus. His desire to honor and show appreciation for what Jesus had done compelled him to return to the Master – which ultimately led to his wholeness. And, through his example, we are able to gain a greater understanding of the power of being grateful to God!

## **Gratefulness Begins with Honoring God**

There is no doubt that the lepers in this bible story had some knowledge of who Jesus was before they encountered Him. They probably heard the many testimonies and stories of how He healed the blind, raised the dead, and performed miraculous wonders in the surrounding cities. The greatest evidence of their knowledge of Jesus was shown in the way they cried out to Him for their own healing when they saw Him afar off. But how is it that with all of this knowledge, only one of the ten lepers came back to thank Jesus? The answer lies in the honor and reverence that one leper had for Jesus.

Certainly, the other nine lepers noticed that they were healed as they went on their way to the priest. It's very likely that once the other nine saw they were healed, they ran home to their families and friends. After all, they had been living far away from them for some time. Can you imagine how

excited they were? Can you imagine how happy their families must have been to see them again? But while they rejoiced over their healing, they missed out on rejoicing over the One who healed them. The leper who returned had a greater understanding that Jesus is the True and Living God and was the source of his healing.

How often do we as believers get so fixated on what we want God to do for us that we sometimes withhold our praise or even complain if we don't see Him move the way we think He should? Anyone living with this mindset will only be moved to thank God when everything is great, prayers are being answered and the blessings are flowing.

However, when we truly honor God, gratitude naturally flows from our heart. We thank Him for being God, our circumstances are irrelevant to our level of worship. We honor Him just for who He is...the God who loves us, saved us, washed us with the blood of His Son, gave us life, showered us with His grace, forgave us of our sins, adopted us into His family and the list goes on and on. Our praise is unwavering because He is the same yesterday, today and forevermore.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Gratitude isn't reserved for the good times alone; it's a choice we make regardless of our circumstances. We understand that God is the source of our blessings and without Him, there is no healing, no deliverance, no restoration or victory. We can't even take our next breath without Him. So let us do as the Bible says...

### **Psalm 34:1**

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

## **Gratefulness Leads to Blessings**

The nine lepers who were healed experienced the physical healing of their bodies. No more pain, no more suffering. But the leper who returned experienced a miracle on a deeper level. His body was healed, restored and ultimately, he was made whole – all because he showed his gratitude to Jesus.

We can experience the same power of gratitude today. When we live with a spirit of gratitude, it postures us to experience and know God in a greater way. As we give thanks, we grow in our understanding that He is our source and supplies all of our need (Philippians 4:19).

### **Conclusion**

Realize that you are blessed and be grateful for what God is doing in your life. Having an attitude of gratitude will help keep you strong in the Lord and grounded in the truth of His love when the enemy comes to lead you astray with his lies.

Even when you are tempted to complain or fret over your circumstances, turn your focus towards God and begin to thank Him for the many ways He has blessed your life. Your gratitude ushers in God's power, favor and blessings into your life.

Thank God for:

- Saving you and giving you the gift of eternal life
- Leading you to Harvest Life Church and giving you Senior Pastors who love you, teach you and pray for you
- Blessing your family
- Giving you a job
- Providing food for you to eat
- Providing a roof over your head
- Keeping your mind

- Blessing your health
- Watching over your children
- Blessing you with gifts and talents to serve in ministry
- Making you more than a conqueror
- Giving you victory in Jesus Christ

Learn from the leper who returned to thank Jesus! He didn't deserve the healing. He wasn't entitled to it. He knew that it was God and by His grace and mercy alone that He was healed. And because of that, He wanted to thank Jesus for what He had done. God is so good to us, so let's thank Him every day and honor Him by living a life of gratitude!

# SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK

## Lesson: Jesus Heals the 10 Lepers

November 3, 2024

### Introduction

- 1. Answer the question** – In the Bible story recorded in Luke 17:11-19 (KJV), Jesus healed 10 lepers. How many of the 10 came back to Jesus to express their gratitude for their healing? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Fill in the blanks** – Luke 17:15-16 (KJV) details how the leper expressed his gratitude to Jesus. Fill in the blanks of the scriptures below:

**Luke 17:15-16:** And \_\_\_\_\_ of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice \_\_\_\_\_ God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him \_\_\_\_\_: and he was a Samaritan.

### Gratefulness Begins with Honoring God

- 3. True or False (circle the answer)** – The leper who returned to Jesus had a greater understanding that He is the True and Living God and was the source of his healing.
- 4. True or False (circle the answer)** – When we truly honor God, gratitude naturally flows from our heart.
- 5. Fill in the blanks** – 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV) says, “In \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ give \_\_\_\_\_: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning \_\_\_\_\_.”

6. **True or False (circle the answer)** – Gratitude isn't reserved for the good times alone; it's a choice we make regardless of our circumstances.
7. **Circle the correct answer** – Which scripture says "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth"?
- a. Psalm 100:4 (KJV)
  - b. Psalm 43:1 (KJV)
  - c. Psalm 34:1 (KJV)
  - d. Psalm 119:23 (KJV)

### **Gratefulness Leads to Blessings**

8. **Circle the correct answer** – The nine lepers who were healed experienced the physical healing of their bodies. But the leper who returned experienced a miracle on a deeper level. His body was healed, restored and ultimately, he was made whole – all because he:
- a. Told his friends what happened
  - b. Changed his clothes
  - c. Showed his gratitude to Jesus
  - d. Wrote a book
9. **True or False (circle the answer)** - When we live with a spirit of gratitude, it postures us to experience and know God in a greater way.

### **Conclusion**

10. **Circle the correct answers** – Having an attitude of gratitude will help keep you:
- a. Strong in the Lord

- b. Spiritually weak
- c. Grounded in the truth of His love when the enemy comes to lead you astray with his lies
- d. Defeated and depressed

**11. Write in the answers** – List 3 blessings you are grateful for (you can use answers from the lesson or write your own).

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_