

One Out Of Ten

Key Verses: Luke 17:17 ~ *And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?*

Power Point: We do not deserve the blessings of God. But we ought to have an attitude of gratitude for everything whether big or small.

1. Luke 17:12 - 13 ~ In times of crisis race & nationality ceases to be a barrier to fellowship .

- What do you think are some barriers to fellowship?
- Can you describe a time of crisis that bonded you with people going through the same thing?

2. Luke 17:14 - 16 ~ Just one out of ten expressed gratitude. Be the one.

- Mention a gift that you received that you know you didn't deserve. How did it impact you?
- How has someone's gratitude or ingratitude to you impacted your life?

3. Luke 17:17 - 19 ~ Unless gratitude is a part of our life, we cannot be whole.

- What do you suppose happened differently to the Samaritan that didn't happen to the other nine?

Application: Let's remember that we do not deserve any blessing. But Jesus has paid for it all. Practice being grateful everyday. What are you grateful for today?

ONE OUT OF TEN

Sunday, November 29, 2009

Stop and reflect for just a moment of where you would be in life had God not drawn you to Himself. What were you like before Christ? How was your attitude about the future? How did you relate to people? Was there a time that you thought only about you until you found yourself alone and realized that other people matter? What conflict, affliction or spiritual disease did it take to open your eyes to the fact that you needed God in your life?

It is so easy to show up at a church service and go through the motions and spiritual exercises and forget to express gratitude for what God has and continues to do in our life.

In our entitlement minded society we constantly face the danger of taking Gods goodness and grace for granted.

Entitlement - a belief that one is deserving of some particular reward or benefit

To deserve - To merit by labor or services; to have a just claim to an equivalent for good conferred.

This was not the Apostle Paul's attitude:

1Co 15:9-10a (CEV) I am the least important of all the apostles. In fact, I caused so much trouble for God's church that I don't even deserve to be called an apostle. But God was kind! He made me what I am, and his wonderful kindness wasn't wasted.

Eph 2:8 (CEV) You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own.

Titus 3:7 (CEV) Jesus treated us much better than we deserve. He made us acceptable to God and gave us the hope of eternal life.

1Ti 1:12-16 (CEV) I thank Christ Jesus our Lord. He has given me the strength for my work because he knew that he could trust me. I used to say terrible and insulting things about him, and I was cruel. But he had mercy on me because I didn't know what I was doing, and I had not yet put my faith in him. Christ Jesus our Lord was very kind to me. He has greatly blessed my life with faith and love just like his own. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." This saying is true, and it can be trusted. I was the worst sinner of all! But since I was worse than anyone else, God had mercy on me and let me be an example of the endless patience of Christ Jesus. He did this so that others would put their faith in Christ and have eternal life.

You may have heard the story of the man who was betrayed by a friend. He went to him and asked, "How could you do this to me? Who picked you up out of the gutter? Who gave you your first job? Who lent you money and bailed you out of jail?" The reply was, "You did, that's true. But what have you done for me lately?"

People with an entitlement mentality fail to appreciate and express gratitude for that which is conferred on them by the goodness and kindness of another. To receive a gift and not express gratitude is to take for granted the kindness of the giver.

I want you to look with me at a story about ten men who encounter Christ and his healing grace but only one out of ten returns to express overwhelming gratitude.

Luke 17:11-19 (NKJV) Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 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. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Let me make several observations about this story:

1. When one is afflicted with leprosy race and nationality ceases to be a barrier to fellowship (*The Jews and Samaritans would not normally live together, but all ten were outcasts and as they say misery loves company*)

2. Mutual affliction can lead to strong bonds

"Crisis has the effect of stripping away the inessential, heightening our senses, bonding us together, and bringing about a certain transcendent clarity that is intoxicating. It's a common effect, reported by those who have been through car wrecks, robberies, and most of all, war." David Roberts

This band of brothers cried out together for mercy from the Master

I imagine that the affliction they faced for an undisclosed amount of time caused a bond between them. As they suffered together they would be healed together.

Imagine the joy they experienced when they realized that their skin was cleansed. The bible says as they went they were all cleansed or healed.

3. Jesus extends healing grace to all the men.

Their healing was an act of God's kindness and compassion not something they merited.

Their healing was a gift from God!!

Gift - any thing given or bestowed; any thing, the property of which is voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation

4. One out of ten returns to express gratitude

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "**Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?**"

We do not know why, but you would have expected all ten men to run to Jesus and thank Him for a new start in life, but only one did so—and he was not even a Jew.

These men should have been grateful for the divine intervention that brought Jesus into their area, for the love caused Him to pay attention to them and their need, and for the grace and power of God that brought about their healing.

Before we beat up on these guys perhaps we should reflect and ask:

Where are the nine today? - Where are the numbers that from time to time have surrendered to God? Are they still expressing gratitude as they did at first? How many are turned back to their old life! What number are we?

How often do we take our blessings and grace of God for granted and fail to thank HIM?

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Ps. 107:8)

Too often we are content to enjoy the gift but we forget the Giver. We are quick to pray but slow to praise and express thanks for all He has done and does.

5. Unless gratitude is a part of our life, we can't be whole.

Jesus says to the Samaritan your faith has made you well.

Ten were cleansed, but only one was made well, and that's far more important than just being healed. Could it be that the Samaritan didn't just receive a physical healing but a healing in his soul as well.

The word well or whole as used in the KJV actually means complete.

Unless gratitude is a part of our life, we can't be whole.

The woman who washed Jesus feet also heard the words your faith has made you whole.

Application:

- I need to be thankful for the work of God in my life.
- Before I can do that, I must understand that I don't deserve anything and God doesn't owe me.