“Where Are The Nine?”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday December 20th, 2020

Text: Luke 17:11-19

### Intro

1. The holiday season can be a fun time of cheer and family traditions, but it can also be a time of great discontent, greed, and ingratitude!
2. We ought to strive to be content and thankful for all things! *(Phil. 4:11; Col. 3:17)*
3. Luke 17:11-19: The Ten Lepers Healed is an Illustration of Gratitude vs. Ingratitude.
   1. The disease of leprosy is a corrosive, repulsive disease and was incurable by man in the 1st century. *Treatments available now for Hansen’s Disease (Leprosy)*
   2. It represents sin which separates us from God *(Is. 59:1-2)* and is also incurable by man.
4. Jewish lepers were not allowed to mix with non-lepers *(Num. 5:2-4).*
   1. These ten lepers stood afar off – secluded, outside the village.
   2. Lepers often went together as they were all treated as outsiders, as “unclean.”
5. Ten of these lepers met Jesus and cried for mercy as Jesus was passing between Galilee and Samaria (NASB – Luke 17:11) on His way to Jerusalem.
   1. Jesus had the power to heal them (Luke 5:15; 6:17-19: He healed all manner of diseases).
   2. These lepers were cleansed “as they went” to the priest *(Lev. 14:1-8).*
   3. This was a test of their faith (Lk. 17:19).
   4. Nine showed ingratitude; One showed gratitude, and he was the foreigner (Lk. 17:17-18).
6. Note that they ALL:
   1. Had the same disease – leprosy (sin)
   2. Had the same condition – afar off (unclean)
   3. Came to the same person – Jesus (Physician)
   4. Cried for the same thing – mercy (helpless)
   5. All told to do the same thing – go (obey)
   6. All received the same blessing – healed (made clean)
   7. Only ONE returned, the least one expected – a Samaritan (foreigner)
7. Ten were healed; one showed gratitude – let us not be like “the nine” but be like the “one!”

#### Ingratitude

* 1. Ingratitude: Being unthankful, unappreciative, ungrateful.
  2. Characterized by:
     1. The wicked, or evil persons – II Tim. 3:1-5: Especially note Vs. 2.
     2. The Gentiles as a whole – Rom. 1:21-22: Failed to thank God – Lk. 17:17
     3. Selfishness – II Tim. 3:2; Phil. 2:3-4: Looking out only for self!
     4. Complaining spirit – I Cor. 10:10; *Num. 16 (Korah’s Rebellion)*
  3. Manifested towards:
     1. Parents – Mt. 15:1-6
        1. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for neglecting their parents.
     2. Others: Those who help us – *Gen. 40:9-15, 20-23; 41:9*
        1. Joseph helped and comforted the Pharaoh’s butler in prison and asked him to be kind and mention his plight to Pharaoh.
        2. The butler forgot about Joseph for two years! (Gen. 40:23; 41:1)
        3. Gen. 41:9: When he remembered Joseph, he said he needed to confess “his own offenses.”
     3. Brethren – I Cor. 6:8
        1. Easy to take for granted the things our brethren do for us (One of the definitions of “defraud” is to take advantage of someone else).
        2. Need to remember to thank one another and to pray for one another.
     4. God – Rom. 1:21
        1. God sent His Son to cleanse mankind from an incurable disease of the soul – sin! *Many of mankind did not give God thanks! (Rom. 1:21)*
        2. Nine of the lepers failed to thank God for cleansing them of their incurable physical disease.
        3. Mankind is guilty of failing to thank God for His Son – let us not be guilty of such a sin! (Rom. 1:21)
        4. We need to not just pray to Him when we are in need, but also to thank Him for His blessings – Ps. 103:2: “Forget none of His benefits”
  4. Ingratitude is a trait of the wicked – not to be in the hearts of the children of God!

#### Gratitude

* 1. Gratitude: Being thankful, appreciative, grateful.
  2. Characterized by:
     1. Humility – Lk. 17:15-16
        1. The Samaritan fell on his face at Jesus’ feet.
        2. It is the proud that think others owe them, so no thanks are given.
     2. Praising God and giving thanks – Lk. 17:16
        1. The Samaritan glorified God (17:15) and thanked Jesus.
        2. Col. 3:15-17: This is the attitude saints should have. *(Eph. 5:20; Col. 1:12)*
  3. Should be manifested towards:
     1. Parents – Eph. 6:2-3
        1. We are to do the opposite of the Pharisees in Mt. 15:1-6.
     2. Others – I Tim. 2:1-2
        1. We are to remember others in our prayers to God with thanksgiving.
     3. Brethren – *Phil. 1:3-6;* II Thess. 1:3
        1. Paul made sure to leave an example of thanksgiving to all brethren!
     4. God – I Thess. 5:17-18
        1. The heart of the Christian should be filled with thanks for God!
  4. A thankful heart will keep us from becoming “ungrateful!”

#### Christians Should Be Grateful To God

* 1. He is the Creator – Acts 17:28: In Him we live, move, and have our very being!
  2. Be thankful that God sent His Son to die for us – Rom. 5:8; Heb. 2:9
  3. Be thankful for God’s word inspired by the Holy Spirit – Jn. 16:13-15; II Tim. 3:16-17
  4. Be thankful for all the physical things we have in this life – Js. 1:17: He is the giver of all good things (Eph. 5:20)
  5. Be thankful for our Christian fellowship – *II Thess. 1:3*
  6. All of our thanksgiving should go to God through Jesus Christ – Col. 3:17
  7. Be thankful that our names are written in Heaven – Lk. 10:20; Rev. 21:27
  8. Be thankful for salvation – that we have been cleansed from sin – *Rom. 6:17-23*
     1. *Christ’s blood has cleansed us from sin, an incurable disease of the soul!*
  9. Let us be like the “one leper” and thank God for all He has done for us!

## Conclusion

1. The account of the Ten Lepers is a reminder to us of the kind of hearts we are to have.
2. Which characterizes our hearts?
   1. Ingratitude is a primary characteristic of the wicked *(Rom. 1:21; II Tim. 3:2)*
   2. Gratitude is commanded by and expected of us to God *(Col. 3:15-17; Eph. 5:4)*
3. Are you like the nine? *(Lk. 17:17)*
4. Let us have the heart of the one leper and give thanks all year round! *(Lk. 17:18)*
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!