

The Road to Gratitude

Luke 17:11-19

Context

This passage shows us Jesus entering a village with 10 men having leprosy. These men cried out to Jesus to heal them of their condition. They cried out from afar to Jesus “Master have pity on us”. Jesus tells them to go to the Priest. I like their response, they simply rise up and follow as Jesus said, a lesson for us all to act in Faith. When we get a Word, simply act, just like these 10 lepers!

On their way ALL of them get miraculously healed! In that moment. Only one of them, a samaritan turns back to Jesus. MSG version says something along - “turned around and came back, shouting his gratitude, glorifying God. He kneeled at Jesus’ feet, so grateful. He couldn’t thank him enough—and he was a Samaritan.”

Look at this observation — out of the 10 of them, all of them were healed, all of them were on their way by Faith yet only one turned around to give Jesus the Thanks and Glory!

Sometimes in our journey of Faith, we’re quick to act in Faith and go our journey and yet sometimes we can be like those 9 lepers who just keep walking without turning back to the source!

Further in verse 18 Jesus says “Has nobody returned to give Praise to God except this foreigner?” God is seeking people like this one leper, who take the time to turn back to Jesus and give the Praise that’s due.

How do we be this one leper that turns around, when the rest of the crew walk on as if nothing happened.

Gratitude: a command

We don’t usually put gratitude as a command right?

1 Thessalonians 5:18 — Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

This is a command.

The opposite of Gratitude

The opposite of gratitude is complaining or grumbling.

Phil 2:14 says — Do everything without grumbling.

The root word for 'grumbling' is more for the tone we speak. It's not just what we speak, but how it sounds. So when we talk about ingratitude, we're not talking about how we speak but also how we say it, it's an attitude, a culture that gets created.

We're going to the old testament to see how toxic this can get & how much God takes this seriously.

Context: when the Israelites have been rescued from the Egyptians. But you ever wondered why it took them 40 years? Let's take a look...

Numbers 11:4-6

They Complained about food, whining about their past

Observations: Complaining is easily transferable

- All of the people start complaining
- It subconsciously becomes culture
- It takes just one to complain
 - 1 family member
 - 1 church member
 - 1 employee
 - 1 friend

Another example,

Exodus 16:2-3

Their complaining to their leaders. They had it better in Egypt

Another Observation: Complaining lacks perspective... THEY WERE in SLAVERY! The more we complain, the more we tend to complain about and this attitude tends to

transcend into culture & eventually becomes our lifestyle. As believers, if we're not careful, we're actually living in a world with this tone...

What about our generation?

If we're not careful, this creeps in on us as well, our generation

#FWP — First World Problems

We are the most fortunate generation, yet at the same time are the most discontent & most ungrateful!

God has had enough of this and David talks about it in **Psalms 106**, where he says our ancestors did not remember your works, and forgot about their God.

Numbers 14:29-30, God waited for this generation of complainers to fulfil His plan for the people of Israel.

Psalms 78:8 and 40

THIS is how serious God takes this!

Carrying a heart of gratitude

So what are we to do, we are to WORSHIP!

Complaining undermines the good news of the gospel. We suddenly find ourselves not passionate anymore, don't want community, we're rebellious and so on...

We are on the other side of the cross, because of what Jesus did, we are the redeemed & now we can thank God, be grateful.

Some insights from God's Word.

- **Do it simply because of God's Character:** 1 Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. He's a faithful Father to the very end. Hebrews 13:8, He is the same yesterday, Today and Forever!
- **Do it in faith, before you see anything:** Jesus in John 11:41 said So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you

have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

- **Do it when it's tough** (Acts 16:25) - Paul & Silas
- **Do it with fellow believers:** Jesus himself did it with the disciples. Matthew 26:26 - during the last supper, Jesus took bread, and when he had **given thanks**, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Even the early believers in Acts 2:46,47

He giveth more grace (Annie Johnson Flint)

*He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.*

*When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources
Our Father's full giving is only begun.*

*Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.*

*His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*