

BE THANKFUL

Introduction:

1. The importance of thanksgiving
2. It is commanded (Philippians 4:6; Colossians 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).
3. It is dangerous to be ungrateful (Romans 1:21).
4. Jesus set an example of thankfulness.
5. We have so much to be thankful for...

Text: Luke 17:11-19

- I. He Was Thankful Because He Was a Samaritan
 - A. The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans (John 4:9).
 1. History of the Samaritans
 2. Mention destruction of Israel by Assyria
 - B. But, Jesus must needs go through Samaria (John 4:4).
 1. His mission was to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10).
 2. His mission is our mission – are we ***seeking?***
 - C. The Messiah brought salvation to all (John 3:16).
 1. Gentiles (Matthew 8:5-18; 15:21-28; Luke 4:14-31)
 2. Strangers are made citizens (Ephesians 2:11-19)
- II. He Was Thankful Because He Was a Leper
 - A. The disease of leprosy
 1. Begins small, but spreads extensively
 2. Rots from the inside out
 3. Separates one from society – “*unclean*” (Lev. 13:45; Num. 5:2)
 4. Results in death
 - B. Leprosy as a type of sin
 - C. From “afar off” to “at His feet” – Leviticus 14:1-3; Matt. 26:6
 1. Friends (Romans 5:6-10)
 2. Fellowship (1 John 1:6-7) – *Worship, prayer, Heaven*
 3. Family (Luke 15:18-24)
 - D. Faith = Trust & Obey
- III. He Was Thankful Because He Was Humble
 - A. He was not arrogant, proud or self-righteous (contrast with Naaman).
 - B. He was submissive to the authority of Christ.
 - C. He demonstrated his thankfulness in word and deed.

Conclusion:

1. Are you thankful for your blessings? Then, use them to serve and glorify God.
2. Are you thankful for salvation? Then, be faithful unto death.
3. Are you thankful for the church? Then, help to make it what God desires.
4. Are you thankful for you family? Then, help them be what God desires.
5. Are you thankful for your friends? Then, help them get to Heaven.
6. Are you thankful for the Truth? Then, learn it and live it.