

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Luke 17:11-19](#).
- B. The reading today is about ten men. One was thankful and gave glory to God. Nine were ungrateful.
- C. God, through X, has blessed us with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3) and yet too many times we are ungrateful.
- D. Let's look at this story.

I. THE LEPERS SAW THEIR NEED FOR JESUS.

- A. Leprosy was incurable. These men had a problem they could not solve by themselves. No one could help them. No one wanted to even be close to them (Lev. 13:45).
- B. These men were in a hopeless condition.
- C. Sin leaves everyone in the same spiritually hopeless condition. We are unclean (like the lepers) because of sin, and we cannot help/cure ourselves (Eph. 2:12).
- D. What leprosy/sins does:
 1. Brings us to a common level, forgetting racial hatred.
 2. Makes us unclean before God.
 3. Isolates us.
 4. Makes us hopeless.

II. JESUS HEALED THEM, BUT THEY WERE NOT GRATEFUL.

- A. In Lk. 11:14, Jesus healed these men in a most interesting way. While they were on the way to the priest, they became clean.
- B. No doubt that these men were cured. Dr. Luke records for us that one of the lepers, when cleansed, came back and shouted with a loud voice. Leprosy disables the voice, as not able to make a sound.
- C. But the real emphasis of the story is the ingratitude of the nine. Only one came back to say, "thank-you." Some excuses for their ingratitude might be:
 1. One waited to see if the cure was real. Skepticism is not thankfulness.
 2. One waited to see if it would last. Looking for a way to rationalize the truth.
 3. One said he would see Jesus at a later date. Is my time is too important for anyone else?
 4. One decided that he never had leprosy. Don't be self-deceived.
 5. One said that he would have gotten well anyway. Pride never says thank you to another.
 6. One gave glory to the priests. We accomplish only if the Lord wills.
 7. One said, "Oh well, Jesus didn't really do anything." If you look for an excuse, you'll find one.
 8. One said that any rabbi could have done it. Then why didn't they go to any other rabbi?
 9. One said that he was already, "much improved." Then why did he come to Jesus at all?

III. WHERE ARE THE NINE? (INGRATITUDE TODAY)

- A. Jesus asked, "Where are the nine, were not ten cleansed?" Even with all that God/Jesus has done for mankind, I believe He is still asking, "Where are the nine?"
- B. Where are the nine?:
 1. God gives life, health, food, water, and clothing and who is grateful? We complain if our steak is burnt, or a piece of clothing is out of style, or the quality of our health care.
 2. Jesus came and died on the cross and who is grateful? Our land is full of pornography, homosexuality, profane language, murder and crime.
 3. Jesus died to give us the church and who is grateful? There are some hundreds of denominations and splinter groups. Our own fellowship is divided into some 17-18 factions. Few

come to worship when there's a ball game, a family reunion, or if we have been offended, embarrassed or "heaven forbid" corrected by someone else.

4. Jesus has given us the Bible as our guide and who is grateful? People are turning to atheism, agnosticism, humanism, mysticism, New Age, and the occult for a pattern for life. The Bible is a forgotten book, attacked, shunned, and ignored. It has become a household decoration rather than a strategy for survival.
5. Jesus has given us the plan of salvation and who is grateful? Baptism is ignored, TV/radio preachers are more interested in raising money than saving souls, and people will believe just about anything as long as it's not the truth.
6. Jesus has given some salvation, but they turn back to the world which is the height of ingratitude. Who could possibly trade the eternal blessings of X for the rudiments of the world? Only the ungrateful.

IV. I AM THANKFUL FOR...

- A. Make your own list.
- B. Do you need some more room? I certainly hope so!
- C. My Thanksgiving wish for you is three-fold:
 1. Peace with thankfulness (Col. 3:15).
 2. Joy with thankfulness (Col. 3:16).
 3. Strength with thankfulness (Col. 3:17).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. With whom are you numbered? With the one or the nine? How thankful are you for the manifold blessings in your life?
- B. Responding to God is one way to say thank-you.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.

I think that, I shall never see,
A church that is all it ought to be,
A church where members never stray
Beyond the strait and marrow way;
A church that has no empty pews,
Where gossips never peddle lies,
Or make complaints or criticize;
They all are always sweet and kind;
And all to others' faults are blind.
Such perfect churches there may be,
But none of them are known to me.
But still we'll work, and pray and plan
To make our own the best we can.