

Don't Forget to Say Thank You

“Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” **Luke 17: 11-18**

My mother taught us many lessons when we were younger, but one really stuck in my memory. She said, “Always say thank you when someone does something for you, because no one is obligated to do anything for you.” I’m always amazed at those who have a sense of entitlement. Most are ungrateful and often resentful when they don’t receive what they believe they are entitled to. These are self-centered people whose only desire is to grab but never to give. They will use manipulation, guilt and any other method that will help them achieve their goal. I’m sure you are already thinking about a person who fits that description. We all know at least one.

In our text found in Luke chapter 17 verses 11-18 Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem when ten men with leprosy saw him. They remained at a distance because of their disease which was highly contagious. According to the Jewish law they were forbidden to come close or touch anyone. These people were separated from family, so they banded together. If they met someone on the way they were required to announce Leper. Seeing Jesus from a distance they cried out in a loud voice, “Jesus, have mercy on us!” Jesus instructed them to go and show themselves to the priests. According to Leviticus 13, the priests were responsible for declaring a person clean or unclean when they were stricken with a contagious disease.

To their credit, they went on their way without question which demonstrated their faith in Jesus’ ability to heal them. While on their way to show themselves to the priest, they recognized that they were healed. One of them ran back to Jesus, fell at His feet, and began to thank God for His blessing. Luke points out that this man who was the only one to return and say thank you was a Samaritan. You see Samaritans were despised by Jews due to them being idolators and of a mixed race. Unlike mankind, God is no respecter of persons. His grace is sufficient and available to all who desire it. Jesus asked, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” The other nine are the ones who have been given a great gift but are ungrateful. Sisters and brothers not everyone you help will appreciate it or come back to say thank you. That’s why we are to do all things as to the Lord because it is He we serve. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Leprosy in the Bible is symbolic of sin. Just like leprosy eats away at the body and causes separation, so does sin. Sin separates us from God and eats at our spiritual life. God has offered us the gift of salvation. All we must do is recognize our need for cleansing, go to God in faith, who is the only one able to clean us up and ask for healing. I promise, He will clean you up, but please, don’t forget to say thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Elder Shirley Freeman