



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Thank God

Date: November 24, 2024

Scripture Text: Luke 17:11-19

Notes:

Happy Thanksgiving! This is a fun time of year. We typically gather together with family and friends to share some good food and fellowship (and football). But when it comes to thankfulness, how well do we express our gratitude to God? Regardless of our circumstances, we always have something to be thankful for. When was the last time you paused and prayed, giving thanks to God? If we are not careful, we may find ourselves focusing on what we don't have instead of being thankful for what we do have. As a result, we foster an attitude of ingratitude, allowing our expectations to exceed reality. In today's passage we look at three types of people and their demonstration of (or lack of) thankfulness.

I. The Sick ([Luke 17:11-14](#))

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. As He entered Samaria from Galilee, He approached a village and ten leprous men stood at a distance, asking Jesus with a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us". Those who had been infected with a skin disease called leprosy were considered unclean, based on [Leviticus 13](#), and were not permitted to have interactions with those not infected with the dreaded disease. As a result, they were outcasts from society. Not only did they have to deal with the physical hardships that come from such a disease, but also the emotional and mental hardships of loneliness and being isolated.

- How did Jesus respond to their request for mercy ([vs. 14](#))?
- Why did He tell them to show themselves to the priests?
- What happened as they obeyed Jesus and were on their way to the priests?
- They were not healed until they obeyed and followed Jesus' instructions.
 - Why is faith an important part of experiencing Jesus?
 - How have you demonstrated your faith by following Jesus' instructions?
- If you were one of those leprous men, what would you be thinking at the point when Jesus asked you to show yourself to the priest?
 - What would be going through your mind upon experiencing Jesus' healing?
- How have you experienced Jesus' healing (physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual)?



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II. The Selfish (Luke 17:14, 17-18)

Upon their healing, only one chose to return to express his gratitude to Jesus. The other nine didn't think it was important enough to say "thank you" to Jesus. Their agenda included Jesus as long as He was a benefit to them. Once they were healed, they moved on to what benefitted them the most.

- Upon the return of the one thankful ex-leper, Jesus asked three questions. What were they?
- Jesus knew the answer to His questions. Why do you think He asked them?
- Clearly, He had expectations that all ten would return to express their gratitude for being healed. What does this say concerning His expectations of us?
- When was a time when you had reason to thank God, but were too busy to do so?
- When was a time when your circumstances distracted you from being thankful to God?

III. The Saved (Luke 17:15-16, 19)

The one who returned to give thanks, came back glorifying God with a loud voice and humbly giving thanks to Jesus. There was no mistake that this one was thankful!! As a result, he received an additional blessing the other nine did not. Not only was he healed physically but was also healed spiritually ("your faith has made you well", [vs. 19b](#)).

- How did the one who returned, put off his own welfare to give Jesus thanks?
- The one who returned went back, contrary to the rest of the group. How can expressing thankfulness to God require us, at times, to be contrary to the masses?
- We don't know what the other nine thought. They all may have been thankful in their hearts for being healed, but only one acted on his thankfulness.
 - Can we be truly thankful without actions demonstrating it?
 - Why is it important to act on our thankfulness?
- A characteristic of thankfulness is acknowledging the source of what we are thankful for. The one who returned was obvious that he gave God the credit for his healing.
 - Why is it important that God, as the source of our thankfulness, be recognized?
 - How can our thankfulness to God affect others' perspective of God?
- Make a list of things you are thankful to God for. How will you show God your thankfulness?

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#): Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; **in everything give thanks**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

[Philippians 4:6-7](#): Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.