

The Nine Guys Who Missed Thanksgiving

Luke 17:11-19

A QUESTION AND AN OBSERVATION:

Luke 17:11-14

- What does it take to get you to use your “Master” Card?
Luke 17:13
- Obedience always precedes God’s blessings.
Luke 17:14

GRATITUDE: IT’S WAY MORE THAN AN ATTITUDE!

- ❶ It’s a decision and an action.
Luke 17:15, Philippians 4:4-7, Colossians 3:17
- ❷ It’s an act of humility.
Luke 17:16, Deuteronomy 8:11-17
- ❸ It draws us closer to God.
Luke 17:12 & 16, Psalm 100:4, James 4:7-10, Romans 1:21
- ❹ It’s God’s will.
1 Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 5:19

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 1. | 6. | 11. |
| 2. | 7. | 12. |
| 3. | 8. | 13. |
| 4. | 9. | 14. |
| 5. | 10. | 15. |

Growth Group Homework
For the week of November 26, 2006

QUICK REVIEW: Was there one point from this week's sermon that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or confused you regarding thankfulness?

MY STORY

1. What was your initial response to Chris' statement that our thankfulness may be the greatest indicator of who we really think is in charge?

2. What attitudes, actions, or character qualities would you use to identify someone as being a person of gratitude? How have you seen this ebb and flow in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We heard in this weekend's teaching from Romans 1:21 that unwillingness to obey and express gratitude can take us down a road of destruction and separation from God. In contrast what does Philippians 4:4-7 tell us is the result of thankfulness in the midst of dealing with challenging or difficult issues?

Romans 1:21

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. [NIV]

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! [5] Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [7] And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. [NIV]

Think of a recent difficult situation or trial in your life. How could you have specifically expressed thankfulness to God in the midst of your requests to Him?

2. God has designed us so that we best operate from a perspective of thankfulness. Our foundation of thankfulness best flows from knowing and remembering the benefits we receive

from God. Read Psalm 103:1-19 and write down the benefits we receive from God that can result in our thankfulness.

Psalm 103:1-19

Of David.

Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
[2] Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits--
[3] who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
[4] who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
[5] who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
[6] The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
[7] He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
[8] The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
[9] He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
[10] he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
[11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
[12] as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
[13] As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
[14] for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
[15] As for man, his days are like grass,
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
[16] the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
[17] But from everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children--
[18] with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
[19] The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all. [NIV]

Which two or three would be most important for you to remember to help keep thankfulness in perspective?

3. Our study showed us thankfulness is an act of humility. How could thankfulness help you move toward God as seen in James 4:6-10?

James 4:6-10

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble."

[7] Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. [9] Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. [10] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. [NIV]

TAKING IT HOME

1. We've all found ourselves at some point falling into the trap of not showing gratitude just as the nine lepers did. Which of the following gratitude roadblocks could most likely become a barrier for you?

- Not realizing all I have been given
- Taking for granted what I know I have
- Chip on my shoulder / Holding a grudge
- Not being where I want to be in life
- Not getting what I ask for
- I deserve it
- God still hasn't answered my prayers
- No one thanked me
- Taking the time to say thank you
- Other

2. **0 to 60 in Gratitude** - In 60 seconds write as fast as you can the things you're thankful for in the following three categories:

Relationships

Who God is

Material Possessions / Resources

3. Most of what we focused on this week was saying thanks to God. But there are many people in our lives that have done great things to get us where we are today. Is there anyone you need to get in touch with just to say thanks?