

Thankfulness

1. Example: Luke 17.11-19

Why did only one cleansed leper return to thank Jesus? The following are nine suggested reasons why the nine did not return:

We One waited to see if the cure was real.

One waited to see if it would last.

One said he would see Jesus later.

One decided that he had never had leprosy.

One said he would have gotten well anyway.

One gave the glory to the priests.

One said, "O, well, Jesus didn't really do anything."

One said, "Any rabbi could have done it."

One said, "I was already much improved."

Charles L. Brown, Content The Newsletter, June, 1990, p. 3.

2. Command: Colossians 4.2 "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;"

3. All of Paul's letters except Galatians begin with thanksgiving

4. Romans 1.8 "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."

5. Paul lists lack of thankfulness as one of the deadliest of sins Romans 1.21; 2 Timothy 3.2

Blessings

Temporal – 1 Tim 6:17 "...gives us all things to enjoy."

Life, health, peace, comforts, joys, hope, usefulness in His kingdom

Every day is chock full of temporal blessings...pick one and start there

Consider what pilgrims had to be grateful for.

46 had died (102 started the voyage on the Mayflower),

only 3 couples escaped death of one of the partners,

only a few (minimum) personal possessions, crude log huts,

only 20 acres of corn.

The thin margin of survival made them aware of how precious their meager blessings were!

Spiritual - 2 Corinthians 9.15 "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

Colossians 2.6-7 "As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

Illustration: Dog who rolls on his treats then eats them.

1 Corinthians 15.57 "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Forgiveness of sins in Christ,

Christ Himself,

purity by faith,

the faith itself,

the Bible,

views into heaven and the future,

assurances of His help,

the graces and growth in them...

Others

Leaders and all men - 1 Timothy 2.1-8

Because it is good and acceptable in the sight of God

Because it is your peace as well that is affected

Without wrath...

Brethren – Ephesians 1.15-16

Because of their faith – you were led to your salvation by at least one of them

Because of their love for you and all saints

Romans 6.17-18 “But God be thanked that though you were slaves to sin, yet you obeyed from the heart...”

Things that hinder our thanksgiving:

Thoughtlessness – Jeremiah 2.32 “...can a bride forget her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.” In America we have so much, do we become jaded????

Faithlessness – Romans 1.21

Discontent – 1Timothy 6.6-10

Selfishness – Matthew 18.23-35 (10,000 talents=15 yrs labor; 100 denari=100 days labor)

Begin today to be more thankful. Illustration:

In his book FOLK PSALMS OF FAITH, Ray Stedman tells of an experience H.A. Ironside had in a crowded restaurant. Just as Ironside was about to begin his meal, a man approached and asked if he could join him. Ironside invited him to have a seat. Then, as was his custom, Ironside bowed his head in prayer. When he opened his eyes, the other man asked, "Do you have a headache?" Ironside replied, "No, I don't." The other man asked, "Well, is there something wrong with your food?" Ironside replied, "No, I was simply thanking God as I always do before I eat."

The man said, "Oh, you're one of those, are you? Well, I want you to know I never give thanks. I earn my money by the sweat of my brow and I don't have to give thanks to anybody when I eat. I just start right in!"

Ironside said, "Yes, you're just like my dog. That's what he does too!"