

Faith expressed in gratitude

From reading notes in March of 2019

Text

**Luke 17:12-19 (ESV)* (12) And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance (13) and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." (14) When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. (15) Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; (16) and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. (17) Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? (18) Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" (19) And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."*

Faith has made you well

- See [Luke 17:19](#) faith has made you well.
- **Point:** Definite connection between faith and healing.
- Familiar concept - as we've studied. See the results from searching for "faith" and "made":
- See [Notes re: faith well](#)
- Each time the connection is pointed out - we should pay attention

The faith of the 10

- **Truth:** Faith is expressed in that we do
- Consider [James 2:17](#) So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
- And again [James 2:26](#) For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.
- **Point:** You can tell what I believe by looking at what I do
- So first, let's look at the faith all 10 expressed

Called out to Jesus

- See **Luke 17:12-13 (ESV)* (12) And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance (13) and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."*
- They kept their distance - as required by the law
- They recognized their problem was not something they could fix/handle/solve
- We keep trying to do this on our own - but Jesus is here

- Old song **What a friend we have in Jesus:** *o what peace we often forfeit, o what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer*
- Are we even praying about our problems, and the needs of others?
- Do we avail ourselves of prayer?
- **Note:** They recognized his authority and power. That's why they called out to Him, begging for his mercy

Obeyed his instruction

- See ***Luke 17:14 (ESV)* (14)** *When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed.*
- **Note:** their healing didn't take place until they trusted enough to obey
- We have to quit waiting for the miracle before we act in obedience
- Our lack of obedience is a lack of faith
- It's holding us back from the blessing/miracle of Jesus

Result: They were all cleansed

- Important point: They were all 10 cleansed.
- They all had the faith to be healed
- Jesus doesn't point out their faith however

The faith expressed by gratitude

- One man returns to praise God, and worship Jesus
- He turned back

Gratitude recognizes God's work in our lives

- See ***Luke 17:15 (ESV)* (15)** *Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice;*
- He saw he'd been healed - he recognized God's power in his life
- Now v14 said they'd all been healed, but this man, when he recognized it turned back to give thanks
- **Point:** What is God doing in your life right now?
- So easy to see the need - but every good thing has come from God!
- See ***James 1:17 (ESV)* (17)** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*
- I asked for praises - but hasn't God been doing good things in all of our lives

Gratitude realizes we don't deserve the blessing

- Have you ever read this story and wondered about the other 9? Why didn't they take time

to say *Thank you*?

- Luke's account seems determined to point out that the one who did - was least *worthy*
- See **Luke 17:16 (ESV)* (16) and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.*
- See also Jesus' response **Luke 17:18 (ESV)* (18) Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"*
- Both verses mention highlight his lack of *worth* in the Jewish mind
- **Point:** Sometimes we think we're owed some blessing or benefit
- Complaining is basically saying God's not doing right by us
- We are owed hell! That's what we deserve
- Any day is a good day - because we should be in hell right now
- Our lack of gratitude stems from a place of feeling like we somehow deserve God's blessing.

Gratitude prioritizes the worship of God over the need/want in our life

- They had to present themselves to the priests in order to be declared "clean" or healed
- It was part of the process
- 9 went on to do that, 1 had a different priority
- There's a problem in American Christianity - it's all about what we want/need
- We are here to worship and glorify God
- This man knew there was nothing more important than praising God
- He didn't even get his *clean bill of health* - instead he came back
- **Note:** He worships Jesus, falling prostrate before him - and Jesus allows it

He was "made well"

- **Luke 17:19 (ESV)* (19) And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."*
- Literally saved
- All 10 were cleansed, but there was this special impartation of grace to the one who stopped to say thank you!

Closing

- What does our gratitude (or lack thereof) show about our faith?
- Can we have gratitude even when things aren't going our way?
- Consider Paul and Silas in prison?