

Do You Thank God?

“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? Was no-one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” (Luke 17:11-19)

Whenever someone offers us a service we do not fail to give thanks. Even small thing such as a glass of water, a cup of tea, a plate of food, or an answer or guidance to find an address we give back a word of thanks and appreciation. It is a spontaneous behaviour. We do it automatically because we were taught from our childhood, in the family atmosphere from our parents, or from our teachers in school. We give thanks to the people who help us manage our lives, like our parents, teachers, friends, and neighbors. Sometimes we forget to do so but when we are reminded we go back to say our gratitude or to give gift as token of thanks. We ourselves realize that it is so shameful not to say, “Thank you”.

Now let us go together to an area where the Lord Jesus was. At the border between two cities, in a desolate area He met ten leprosy men as he was going into a village. Leprosy people were considered unclean in the Old Testament. They were not allowed to live inside the city, but outside. No one liked them and no one could come in contact with them because they were unclean.

Those ten men with leprosy **“they stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice; Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”** When they were in need they tried to come to Jesus who might give them healing, and as the Bible says, **“When He saw them, He said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests,” and as they went, they were cleansed.”** The ten leprosy, sick and isolated men received healing and they received back their freedom, the ability to go back and live in the city to intermingle with other people. Jesus restored their lives, He returned to them their freedom, and brought them back to live again among their families. But out of the ten men, only one man when he saw he was healed, came back praising God in a loud voice. This man recognized Jesus as God, therefore he threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked Him. In spite of being a Samaritan he gave Jesus His due as Lord and as Master. Samaritans according to the history are far distant separated from God.

But in this situation, the Samaritan man was curious in his attitude; while the other nine failed to thank the Lord. They were **unfaithfulness toward God**. Failure to express real gratitude to what God had done in our lives would mean that:

1. **We fail to recognize the saving grace of Jesus:** God had done the greatest wonder for us when He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins. **“The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him and by His wounds we are healed.”** Through Jesus, not only we receive healing from illness and sickness, but we also have eternal life. Our trip to heaven becomes free. Therefore it is not only enough to give Him thanks but rather let us dedicate our lives to worship and to serve Him faithfully.
2. **We fail to recognize God’s presence:** The healing of the ten lepers happened after they left Jesus and while they were on their way to show themselves to the priest who could pronounce them as clean. Many times when we pray and kneel down at the feet of Jesus, we receive from Him our needs and request but not at once; only after a little while, after few days, a month or years. But because we do not see Him answering our prayers exactly as we ask from Him, we also neglect to perceive that all blessings we are receiving moment by moment is from Him alone. We forget His ever presence with us.
3. **We fail to recognize God’s power:** Jesus is the Son of God who manifested Himself as a man. To those lepers who were in a desperate situation - He was the Master and Lord. But when they got healed it became so difficult to accept that the dramatic healing had come from what was looking as an ordinary man. This situation might happen to us; when we are in a dilemma we ask help from God, but when all things become alright all of a sudden we fail to recognize or even to imagine that all power comes from Jesus, who is God and man, who was also crucified. We think that His death on the cross is a weakness but we forget that His resurrection is the victory of life and hope to everyone who believes and trusts in His name.

The Samaritan who came back to Jesus to thank Him, was not only grateful, but he was faithful and wise because he recognized the love, the power, the grace and the presence of God in the life of Jesus. He recognized Jesus and truly accepted Him as Master and God. And Jesus said to Him, **“Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”**

My dear and beloved: Let us examine ourselves and be reminded of the good and grateful things that Lord Jesus has done in our lives, before we say,

My Prayer: “Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. I am grateful for all that I have received and will be receiving from You. Above all, I thank You for the salvation and eternal life I receive through Jesus, my Lord. Build up my faith in You O Lord, so that I may see You in every aspect and moment of my life. This is my prayer and song of thanksgiving in Jesus’ name.” Amen.