

Faithfulness and Gratefulness Rewarded

(Part 1)

⁴¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy^[b] met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” (Luke 17:11-19)

People at the time of Jesus when they want to go from Jerusalem to Galilee or from Galilee to Jerusalem they need to pass through Samaria because it is in between the two places, but since they don’t like the inhabitant of Samaria and they considered them unclean the people will make a curve walk around Samaria in reaching either Galilee or Jerusalem. Our Lord Jesus Christ sometimes he was passing through Samaria to reach the people there and to preach to them the good news. But what we read in the above Scripture that Jesus was travelling along the border between Samaria and Galilee because He wanted to help ten men who had leprosy.

People who had leprosy from the time of Moses till the time of the Lord Jesus Christ they are considered as unclean, therefore they will kept be outside the cities and villages and were not allowed to meet people and live with others because they are contagious and can infects others. They will be kept outside the villages and cities away from the contacts of the people and only the priests are allowed to go outside to them and to examine them. If they are healed the priests will allowed them to come inside and resume their normal life and that is why the Lord told them to go and to show themselves to the priests.

It was so disgraceful things to have leprosy, the society and the people will look down on those who are affected by such condition, therefore when the Lord met the ten leprosy men they stood at a distance from Him. You might not have leprosy but you have other conditions that bring disgrace in your life. For certain societies to be a woman is a disgraceful condition, or to be a poor is disgraceful thing, or to be without children in disgraceful thing, etc. But what the ten leprosy did? *Called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”* Do the same and call out to the Lord in a loud voice to have mercy on you and reverse your condition. Crying to God is effective. You don’t know how God will answer your prayer and how God will help you to overcome your struggles.

Indeed the Lord responded to their cry and He told them, *“Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.* Sometimes we might think that the matter that we are suffering from is impossible but nothing is impossible with the Lord. The thing that you might think is a remote possibility to happen the Lord can achieve it for you. So trust Him and obey His word.

The Lord Jesus Christ had done great things to those ten leprosy and He saved them and delivered them from very difficult and shameful condition. Therefore they ought to be

faithful and grateful to the Lord. But what we find here that only one person came back and showed his faithfulness to the Lord. Even Jesus was astonished by saying; *“Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?”* Jesus had helped, supported, healed, delivered, provided, answered prayers and He done so and so for many people, but how many of them returned to the Lord?

We may ask and say all the ten of them get healed but why only one came back? The same for now, the Lord is caring and blessing many people but why only few come back to the Lord? The Leprous who came back and the people who come back after receiving Christ blessings they are:-

1- Aware and can recognize the source of the blessings: Sometimes you get healed, relieved and got delivered. You might relate that to some people who helped you or to yourself who worked to help yourself. But you had forgotten that you had prayed and what you are now is the Lord answer to your prayers.

2- Faithful to the Lord: Faithfulness is needed and required toward the Lord. We don’t only ask Him when we are in troubles but after He relief us we need to keep our commitment to Him and to live our lives in a way to please Him. Many they use the Lord when they are in distress but after He released them they forget what He asked them to do and to be. You have privileges from the Lord but you have also responsibilities.

3- Grateful to the Lord: Our hearts should be filled with gratitude toward the Lord. Jesus had done great things for us. We need to be grateful to Him as He died for us on the cross to give us eternal life. *“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” (Colossians 3:16)*

4- Obedience to the Lord: Faithfulness and gratitude is an act of obedience toward the Lord. Those whom God intervened in their life and had blessed them but they did not continue to walk with Him they are disobedient to Him.

5- Fearing the Lord: The healing process that had happened to the ten leprosy, as well as whatever Christ do to the people in answer to their prayers and save them from perils, sickness and troubles is one way of God in calling the people and they should not ignore God calling for them. When God called Noah the Word of God informed us that Noah responded to God’s call in holy fear he built the ark, *“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.” (Hebrews 11:7a)* Lack of response to God’s intervention and help is a lack of fear in God.

6- Wise in taking decision: The leprosy person who came back to the Lord after healing, and those who decide to continue to walk with the Lord after receiving God’s healing they are wise people in their decision. For when they decided to obey the Lord and serve Him they are more privileged than those who missed the Lord behind.

My Dear and Beloved: Don’t be opportunistic and don’t use the Lord to fulfill your own ambition and plan and after that you forget Him. Don’t do that because you are going to lose more and miss many other blessings. Be faithful and to the end as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to be faithful to you in my life, obeying your word and commands and living my life doing your will and not forgotten what you had done to me. Lord I commit myself to serve you till the end of my life. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*