Everyone here celebrated Thanksgiving this past Thursday….but I ask you…Is YOUR Thanksgiving over? …is that all the thanks He gets?

*A little boy was asked to define SALT and he responded “Salt is what makes potatoes taste bad when it is left out”

So it is w/ gratitude!

In Luke 17, we find a story that deals with The AWFUL ABSENCE of appreciation and the pitiful Percentage of people that respond rightly, with Thanksgiving!

But today, I want us to see ourselves as well as society in this story, and center in on the CONTINUATION of APPRECIATION in our lives 365 days a year.

Psalms 92:1-2 says, “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.”

It is PROPER & PERPETUAL! Paul praised in prison!

The “entitlement mindset” that has permeated American society at almost every level. We have went from Free market to free loaders!

“If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it’s free!”
Ingratitude reveals that we have forgotten God in America!

I am far more concerned about global cooling than I am about global warming!!

Mat 24:12 “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

Do you have difficulty with BITTERNESS? SELFISHNESS? SELF PITY? PRIDE? PESSIMISM?

The answer...is appreciation! The attitude of gratitude can change your life!

Phil 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

I. WHAT WAS SOUGHT BY THE TEN

* TEN MEN # 10 represents testimony.

10 My hand has 10 fingers. The complete moral law was given in the 10 commandments.

10 plagues, 10 virgins etc. even the word written is writTEN "it is written”

---They suffered together in the agony of their affliction.

A. Their Condition vs. 12 “stood afar off” Eph 2 “afar off” Lev 13:45-46 required it!

Leprosy is symbolic of sin!

Destined for the fire –Leprosy defiled; distanced; and doomed all afflicted by it!

No hugs, no hand-shakes, no kisses, no pats on the back.

B. Their Cry vs. 13 PITIFUL PICTURE….. PASSIONATE PLEA…

Jesus reputation preceded Him! They couldn’t come close- but they could cry!!!
The LORD wouldn't have healed them unless they asked!

C. Their **Cleansing** vs. 14 “catheritzo” here we get word catheter from—removes impurities!

They took Jesus at His word---and found it to be TRUE!!!

They probably *hugged* and *high fived* and had a *hallelujah* time headed for Jerusalem-

II. WHAT WAS **SPOKEN** BY THE ONE Vs.15-16

The LORD healed many people of leprosy during His ministry (Luke 7:22)

- only 2 of these miracles are reported in detail in the Holy Scriptures.

The purpose of the LORD’s earthly ministry was not to **HEAL**, but to **REVEAL**

The **DEMONSTRATION** Of His **APPRÉCIATION** says some things about him…..

When compared with his cleansed comrades - this is the story of

10 *unclean* men, 9 *ungrateful* men, and 1 *unusual* man!

Jesus met **3 Samaritans** - *Good* Samaritan Luke 10, John 4 – *each* the exception to the rule!

Thanks is about **GIVING** ---not **GETTING**!!!

Prayer is a *beggar* (we *ask*); Praise is a *benefactor* (we *give*).

**SAME PLACE** – **SAME PROBLEM** – **SAME PRAYER**---- Only one praise!
Prayer has a full choir. Praise does a solo!

A. He gave a **Public Expression of His Gratitude**

Vs 15 “and with a **loud voice** glorified God, …”

Now the **leper** became a **leaper** - he throws himself at Jesus feet. – **Verbal & Visible**

**Praise** is never **passive** but **always active!!!**

One of the phrases we find ourselves repeating raising children is, “What do you say?”

**Authentic appreciation** always manifest itself through verbal and/or visible declaration!

* If someone special gives you a gift - but say nothing to them - you will appear ungrateful - YOU KNOW WHY??---because you are!!

**AS THE OLD COUNTRY FARMER PUT IT;,, "WHAT'S DOWN IN THE WELL, COMES UP IN THE BUCKET!**

The two words translated “loud voice” come from the Grk words *megas* and *phones*, where we get “megaphone”.

**Hebrews 13:15-16** “By [or through] him [Jesus] therefore let us offer the **sacrifice** of praise to God *continually*, (NOT just NOVEMBER) that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.. “

* I remember the first time I said, "Praise the Lord!"

It seemed like a very awkward phrase to utter. *I am going to say that now. I consciously thought about it. Once I did, it felt kind of good. So I said it again!*
Vs. 16 “fell down on his face at His feet”

* The Masai tribe in West Africa have an unusual way of saying "thank you." When the Masai express thanks, they bow, put their forehead on the ground and say, "My head is in the dirt." They understand well what Thanksgiving: at its core, thanksgiving is an act of humility.

B. • HE GAVE A **PERSONAL** EXPRESSION OF HIS GRATITUDE

He didn’t say “I'll go if you go” or “I'll praise if you praise”

Instead he said “Let me be the one to say thank you!”

He put family, and friends fellowship on hold so that he could worship the one that made his being with them possible!

What **SUNDAY** is all about!!!

Give God glory! He’s been giving to you all week- be good to Him **this** Sunday morning!!!

What **TITHING** is all about!!!

Do you realize this man **WAS** the tithe? (10%)

* Fellow one time said to his preacher, "Pastor, I can't afford a tenth, could not I just give a forth?"

An economic downturn doesn’t so much cause problems as it reveals them.

He GOT something they **didn’t** GET!

Num 14 Their continual complaining cost them the promised land:
~it appears that this man received an additional blessing, beyond that of his initial healing.

**Vs. 19** “souza” same word as **saved** “whole” They ALL got MERCY but ONE got **GRACE**!!!

* You’re not FULLY clean unless you’re **ZEST** fully clean!

With tears of joy he walks away singing, "Thank you, Lord for saving my soul, thank you Lord for making me whole."

Whenever someone goes the same way they went without worshipping…. I wonder if they got it all!!

**Psa 107:2** “Let the redeemed of the LORD say so”

**III. WHAT WAS SHOWN BY THE NINE**

They sought **HIM** for **CLEANSING**….. He sought **them** for **CONFESSION**;

* In King Lear, Shakespeare said, “How sharper than a serpent’s tooth it is to have a thankless child.”

The moment we’re born, we already owe someone for 9 months of room and board…and we never really pay that debt.

And God has many!!! By **CREATION** and **SALVATION**!!

They got so caught up in the **gift** that they forgot the **Giver**;

What an **INSULT** to **FORGET** the LORD'S **PROVISION**!
What an **INJUSTICE** to **FAIL** to give the LORD **PRAISE**!

Don’t take God and His grace for **granted** !!!

* It appears that the **odds are 10 to 1** that those helped by the Lord will be grateful.

I don’t know what kind of conversation they had-

but I know they were aware of the **FACT** that he went **BACK**

“**Well you know how Samaritans are! They worship different! We’re dignified!”**

* They had a **big enough mouth** to **PLEASE** in PRAYER- but not **PRAISE** with Appreciation!!!!

**Their sin was not** that they did not **have** gratitude, but did not **express** it.

The question this morning is not **ARE** you grateful…are you grateful? Say amen! That’s the point!

**Is that all the thanks He gets??**  Was Thursday enough?

Now that “**Thanksgiving is over**” are you **OVER** Thanksgiving???

* In 2009 don’t be like the 9!

…… say to Jesus this morning “**I’m The One You’re Looking For!”** !!!

**INVITATION:**
You know what He had to do? He had to \textit{TURN AROUND}!!

\textit{1Co 15:57} \textit{“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”}