

Luke

See Jesus

So, What Does a Grateful Heart Do?

Luke 17:11-19

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / March 26, 2023

“In his book, *Notes from Underground*, in 1864, Dostoevsky wrote of humanity, ‘If he is not stupid, he is monstrously ungrateful! Phenomenally ungrateful. In fact, I believe that the best definition of man is the ungrateful biped.’ Albert Camus wrote similarly, ‘Man’s first faculty is forgetting.’”

“Ingratitude and forgetfulness are ultimately moral rather than mental; they are the direct expression of sin. No culture has nourished such tendencies as consistently as ours. We pride ourselves on being autonomous, self-created, and freestanding. A modern world with no need of God produces modern people with no sense of gratitude.”

~ Os Guinness, *The Call*, pp. 196-197

I. A Grateful Heart Sets You Apart

Luke 17:15 “Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back...”

This is the only recorded healing of a group this size! He just healed ten lepers that were so foul and so outcast that they had to stand 50 yards away from Him as they shouted, “Have mercy on us”...but only one came back to say “thanks!”

Luke 17:17 “Then Jesus answered, ‘Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?...’”

Very few people today take time to express thanks. Jesus is driving home to us right here the need to express our gratitude—often and loudly.

II. A Grateful Heart Brings You Back to Him Again and Again

Luke 17:15-16 “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...”

You have to know what to shout about! Your biggest problem has been solved.

When you know your biggest problem has been solved, it means:

1. **You’ve Been Forgiven** (Psa. 103:10-12; Eph. 1:7-8)
2. **You’ve Been Adopted** (Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 4:4-7; Eph. 1:3-6)
3. **You Have a Robe of Righteousness** (Isa. 61:10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:7-9)
4. **You Have Freedom from Condemnation and Shame** (Rom. 8:1-4)
5. **You Have the Ultimate Answer for a Guilty Conscience** (Heb. 10:19-23)
6. **You Have Unlimited Access in Prayer to His Throne** (Heb. 4:14-16)
7. **You Have His Spirit Living in You** (Eph. 1:13-14)

8. You Have a New Identity and Purpose (Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 2:9-11)

9. You Have Security and Assurance of Salvation (John 10:27-30)

10. You Have an Inheritance that Cannot Be Taken (Eph. 1:11-18)

It all cost Him dearly, but came to you for free—by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, plus nothing!

The apostle Paul, who unpacks the glory of salvation more than any other writer, uses the Greek word “Eucharisteo” or “giving thanks” – 46 times in his letters of the New Testament.

Colossians 2:6-7 “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

In other words—you start with Jesus, you stay with Jesus, and the volume of your thanksgiving should grow louder and louder the longer you walk with Him.

III. A Grateful Heart Keeps You Killing and Cultivating Some of the Right Things in Your Life

A. Gratitude Keeps Pride from Taking Root in Your Heart

Grateful people think and talk about God and others far more than themselves. Ungrateful people tend to focus on their needs, their hurts, their desires, and the failures of everyone else around them to do enough for them.

B. Gratitude Paves the Way for Peace and Wisdom in Your Heart

Colossians 3:15-17 “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

C. Gratitude Breaks the Cycle of Destruction in Your Heart

See Romans 1:21-22, 28-31

This is a massive laundry list of horizontal, relational destruction, but it all flows from the vertical problem of not giving Him thanks (verse 21) and not acknowledging God (verse 28.)

When you’re caught up in giving thanks to God, you’ll let up on other people around you. All your relationships get healthier because a grateful heart enters into greater intimacy and dependency on God, therefore making fewer demands on other people.

D. Gratitude Puts You in Sync with the Rest of Creation!

When you get going on this path of gratitude, you just start catching up with the rest of creation that’s been doing it right!

The rest of creation is much more in tune with heaven than we are. Every picture the Bible gives us of heaven shows a scene where all kinds of creatures stand before God and erupt with loud praise and thanksgiving.

See Revelation 4:1-3, 8-11; 5:11-13