

A Resilient Faith

FINDING HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Growth Group Questions November 24, 2024 “Grateful”

Context:

Setting

Jesus encounters the lepers in the region between Galilee and Samaria, a potentially hostile area that is neither inside nor outside Jewish territory.

The encounter

The lepers call out to Jesus, asking for mercy, but keep their distance because they are unclean. Jesus tells them to go show themselves to the priests, and they are healed on the way.

The grateful response

One of the men returns to Jesus and praises God, thanking him for what he has done. Jesus asks, "Didn't I heal 10 men? Where are the other nine?"

The Samaritan

The passage also contrasts the thankful Samaritan with others who seem less expressive. The passage ends with a command to the Samaritan, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well".

Themes in this passage include:

Jesus' care for the marginalized

The appropriate response to Jesus, which is faithful recognition and gratitude

The idea that seeing makes all the difference



“Jonathan Edwards calls the deeper, primary form of thankfulness ‘gracious gratitude.’ It gives thanks not for goods received, but for who God is: for His character -- His goodness, love, power, excellencies -- regardless of favors received. And it's real evidence of the Holy Spirit working in a person's life.” –

Chuck Colson

Scripture:

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ 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^[a] 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.”

Ephesians 1:3

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Revelation 7:12

¹² saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”



Questions:

1. What is your definition of “gratitude”?
2. What does the Bible tell us about “gratitude”?
3. How do you think gratitude differs from thanksgiving?
4. Reverend Taylor said: “True gratitude is the recognition we have received something we didn’t deserve, cannot earn, and cannot accomplish on our own.” What is your reaction to this statement?
5. Reverend Taylor also said that a heart of gratitude requires humility. What does that mean to you?
6. What does it mean to be grateful for who God is rather than merely for what He has given to us?
7. When you think about the character of God, what are you most grateful for?
8. How does gratitude build our faith?
9. What lessons can we learn from the story of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19)?
10. In Ephesians 1:3, we are told that God has blessed us “with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Reverend Taylor also encouraged us to identify our spiritual blessings. What spiritual blessings are you most grateful for?

Thanksgiving Spiritual Practice:

1. Set aside 10 minutes in the morning and begin your day by imagining yourself running to Jesus and falling on your knees in gratitude and praise.
2. Start a gratitude journal using two categories: What spiritual blessings are mine in Christ for which I am grateful? What physical/earthly blessings are mine for which I am thankful?

