

Living in the Power of Thanksgiving

New Life Lessons
November 21st & 22nd, 2015
Pastor Ron Salsbury

- **Day One – Read Luke 17:11-19.** Why do you think the nine Jewish lepers failed to return to give thanks? The priest would not have pronounced the Samaritan as “clean.” Why did he go anyway? What did it mean that he was “healed” and the others were only “cleansed?”

Pray and ask the Lord to help you trust and obey in greater ways in your life. Ask him to increase your faith in Him and His Word.

- **Day Two – Read Psalm 36:5-7a; 1 Thessalonians 5:18. And, read the quote from Matthew Henry’s diary (pg 1).** In every situation, there is reason for thanksgiving. This does not minimize the difficult situations we face, but it does place the focus on God’s faithfulness and our reasons to be thankful.

Pray and ask God to help you see his goodness in every situation. Thank him for his faithful love for you.

- **Thanksgiving Day –** Before your Thanksgiving meal, go around the table and share why you are thankful. Share one thing about God for which you are thankful. Then, share one thing about one of the people at your table for which you are thankful.

Pray and thank God for his faithfulness to you!

“The Power of Thanksgiving”

Luke 17:11-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Psalm 95:2

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

Four Lessons from the Samaritan Man

1. His Reason to Give Thanks.

“When he saw that he was healed ...” vs. 15a

Psalm 36:5-7a (NIV) ⁵ Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. ⁶ Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast. ^{7a} How priceless is your unfailing love! Psalm 8:3-4a; 1 Chronicles 16:8-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

What are the things in your life for which you can be thankful?

“I am thankful. First, because I was never robbed before. Second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life. Third, because although they took everything I had, it wasn’t much. Fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.” - Matthew Henry

2. His Decision to Give Thanks.

“... He came back.” vs. 15b

Gratitude is a feeling. ... Thanks must be given!

Psalm 100:4b (NIV) ^{4b} Give thanks to him and praise his name.

Why do we often fail to give thanks?

- *We think we deserve what we have.*
- *We don't think it matters to God what we express.*
- *If God knows what we feel, why say it?*
- *We forget*
- *We're too proud.*

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) ²⁵ Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety.
2 Samuel 6:20-22

3. His Focus of Thanksgiving.

“... Praising God in a loud voice.” vs. 15c

We thank God for what he's done.

We praise God for who he is.

Some suggestions for our thanksgiving and praise:

- **Use fresh language in prayer.** Try not using “thanks.” Try beginning your prayers with “you” rather than “I.”
- **Use the names of God.** “Redeemer, Rock, Bread of Life, Comforter, Lamb.”

• **Use Scripture.** Psalm 16:11; Psalm 19 & 145

• **Use Music** Psalm 47:6

Hebrews 2:12 (NIV) ¹² "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

4. His Expression of Thanksgiving.

“He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him.” vs. 16

What is the *correct* expression of thanksgiving and praise?

- *Bowing down* Psalm 95:6
- *Lifting our hands* Psalm 134:2
- *Clapping our hands* Psalm 47:1
- *Dancing* Psalm 149:3
- *Playing an Instrument* Psalm 150
- *Using our voice* Psalm 95:1
“loudly” Hebrew “*halal*” “*splitting the eardrums with sound*”
“joyfully” Psalm 98:4 “*Shout for joy to the Lord*”

So, how will you grow in your expressions of thanksgiving and praise?

**“Give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you
in Christ Jesus.**

1 Thessalonians 5:18