

**Introduction** (Luke 17:11-19)

Two weeks ago we had a snow day and as a result of that we changed the preaching schedule. Donald was supposed to preach on the faithful steward two weeks ago and on Lazarus last week. Instead, he preached on the faithful steward last week. He is in Portales this week for Thanksgiving, and is also preaching there. This week, I am jumping forward in our text to Luke 17:11 to preach on the Tenth Leper. It is about being grateful, and is appropriate on this Thanksgiving weekend. Next week, Donald will be back again and will pick up in Luke 16 where he left off, and will be preaching on Lazarus. The following week, I will preach on the first ten verses of Luke 17. That takes us up to Christmas, and Donald will be preaching on the first coming of Christ, the real reason for Christmas. Karen will be preaching on December 28, and will be preaching on the signs of the second coming of Christ out of Luke 17.

As you recall in Luke 1, Luke investigated everything carefully from the beginning and wrote things in consecutive order so that we would know the exact truth about the things we have been taught. When Karen does her message on the signs of the second coming, we will be back in consecutive order in the Gospel of Luke.

November 23, 2014 – The Faithful Steward (Luke 16:1-15)

November 30, 2014 – Lessons From Lepers (Luke 17:11-19)

December 7, 2014 – Lazarus (Luke 16:16-31)

December 14, 2014 – Stumbling Blocks and Faith (Luke 17:1-10)

December 21, 2014 – The First Coming of Christ

December 28, 2014 – The Signs of the Second Coming of Christ (Luke 17:20-37)

(Luke 1:3-4) “it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; {4} so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.”

Last week we looked at our stewardship. **God expects us to be faithful in handling His money.** He is the owner and we are merely His stewards. He wants us to be faithful with those things that belong to others. We are to be faithful in small things. Finally, we are to be faithful with unrighteous mammon. God is not going to entrust true treasures to us if we are not faithful stewards. We are required to be faithful with all that God entrusts to us, not just our finances. In 1 Peter 4, we are reminded that each of us has received a special gift, and we are to employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **We are stewards of our spiritual gifts and we must be faithful with them.** As a teacher, I need to be faithful to develop and use my gift of teaching. If you are a teacher, you should also work hard at learning, developing and faithfully using your gift. If you have the gift of helps or are a servant, find ways to faithfully employ your special gift in serving one another.

(1 Pet 4:10) “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

We are changing our membership process. We have shortened our Orientation presentation so that it can be done in an about forty-five minutes. But, we are adding three new member classes that will follow the Orientation presentation. The first new-member class will be on essential doctrines of the

faith. The second class will be on discovering your spiritual gifts. Instead of filling out the membership interview form and letting us know about these gifts, we want to help you discover them, and to help you find ways to employ those gifts in serving others. Ephesians 4 says that we will not grow and mature unless each individual part is working properly. We want everyone to be faithfully using their gifts. The third class will be on small group ministry. Our goal is to launch our small groups in January. We have been conducting training for small group leaders and hosts, and will be giving you more information at the start of the new year.

This week we are going to look at the ten leprous men that were healed. The passage is not really about healing. Jesus was continually healing. There are forty-one different healings in the gospels that Jesus performed. Of the 3,779 verses in the four gospels, there are 727 verses that relate to healing that He performed. John wrote that there were many other things which Jesus did, and if they had been written in detail, the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

(John 21:25) “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.”

So far in Luke we have seen the following healing accounts.

- Luke 4: Jesus healed the man with the unclean spirit in 4:33. He healed Peter’s mother-in-law in 4:38. He healed multitudes of people in 4:40, 5:15, 6:17, 7:21, and 9:11.
- Luke 5: He healed the leper in 5:12. He healed the man with paralytic in 5:18.
- Luke 6: He healed the man with the withered hand in 6:6.
- Luke 7: He healed the Centurion’s servant in 7:2. He healed the widow’s son in 7:11.
- Luke 8: He healed the Gerasene demoniac in 8:26. He healed the woman who was hemorrhaging in 8:43. He healed Jairus’ daughter in 8:54.
- Luke 9: He healed the boy with the evil spirit in 9:38.
- Luke 11: He healed the mute demoniac in 11:14.
- Luke 13: He healed the woman bent over double by a demon in 13:10.
- Luke 14: He healed the man with dropsy in 14:1.

Jesus healed lots of people of different sicknesses, diseases, and illnesses. In today’s passage ten lepers are healed. That is pretty exciting. It is good stuff. I would love to begin seeing more healings taking place. God is still in the healing business, and we are believing God to use us to heal people in our community. But, today’s passage is not about the healing. It is about the response of gratitude that one of the ten lepers had after being healed. It is about what our response should be for the work that God does in our lives. It is about giving God thanks and glorifying Him. Let’s read our passage.

(Luke 17:11-19) “While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee. {12} As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; {13} and they raised (aero) their voices (phone), saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" {14} When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed. {15} Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud (megas) voice (phone), {16} and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. {17} Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? {18} "Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?" {19} And He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well (sozo)."

The main point of this passage is learning to be grateful for the work that God does in our lives, but I would be remiss if I did not cover some of the other things that we can learn from the lepers that were healed. Therefore, I have named this message, “Lessons From Lepers.”

### Lessons From Lepers

1. The Lesson of Community
2. The Lesson of Faith and Obedience
3. The Lesson of Gratefulness

#### 1. The Lesson of Community

The first lesson we can learn from the lepers is community. Our passage begins with Jesus traveling to Jerusalem. It says He was passing between Samaria and Galilee. There is a region called Samaria and there is a town called Samaria. There is also a Lake called Galilee, and a region called Galilee. I believe Luke is referring to the region. Jesus is traveling south towards Jerusalem, and He is somewhere between the region of Galilee and Samaria.



(Luke 17:11) “While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee.

It says that He entered a village. The name of the village is not given, but it is a village that has both Jewish people and Samaritans. We find in verse 16 that the one who turned back was a Samaritan. Therefore, we know that there were both Jews and Samaritans living in the same village. Jewish people do not normally mingle with Samaritans. The Jews would go out of their way to walk around Samaria, just so that they would not encounter one of these “half-breeds.” So, there is something special about this village that both Jews and Samaritans are living in it.

(Luke 17:12-16) “As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him... {15} Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, {16} and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan.”

We are given instructions about leprosy in Leviticus 13-14. In Leviticus 13, God gave instructions to the priests about how to determine if a man has leprosy or not. Generally speaking, if it was a surface infection that did not spread, it was not considered leprosy. However, if the spot was deeper than the skin, it was considered leprosy. The priests were very careful about the diagnosis of leprosy. It is caused by a bacteria called bacillus, and it is very contagious. That is why people with leprosy were separated from everyone else. It was a protection of the rest of the community. Leprosy attacks the nerves and the skin. It anesthetizes the body and the limbs so that feeling is lost. Fingers, toes, teeth, and other body parts would literally fall off. Many times people would hurt themselves without even knowing it, because they had no feeling in their affected limbs. The bacillus would invade the bone marrow, impairing blood supply causing the bones to shrivel and the rest of the body to shrivel as well. The bacillus sometimes destroyed eyes, causing blindness. It also affected the larynx so that lepers ended up with weak and raspy voices.

If the priest had questions about it, the person would be quarantined for a week for observation. If the condition did not deteriorate, the priest would quarantine the person for an additional seven days. If the condition still did not deteriorate, the priest would declare the man clean and the person would have to go through a cleansing process, which included various offerings. If however, the priest declared the person as leprous, the leper would have to tear his clothes. He would have to uncover his head, and he was to cover his mustache and cry, 'unclean, unclean.' If someone came near, the leper would have to identify himself as a leper and say unclean. This was to prevent someone from accidentally coming in contact with the person and catching the disease. Furthermore, the leper had to live alone and his dwelling had to be outside the camp. The lepers were outcasts. People were not to associate with them, be around them, or touch them.

(Lev 13:45-46) "As for the leper who has the infection, his clothes shall be torn, and the hair of his head shall be uncovered, and he shall cover his mustache and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!' {46} "He shall remain unclean all the days during which he has the infection; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp."

What is special about this village is that there were lepers living inside the camp or village. Since lepers could not associate with those who had leprosy, and could not live in the city with everyone else, they were outcasts. Therefore, I believe this is a group of people with leprosy that banded together and became a leprous colony or village. It is interesting that there are nine Jewish lepers and one Samaritan man that call out to Jesus from a distance. When sickness or other difficulties occur in our lives, we have more in common with others than we did previously. These nine Jewish lepers were outcasts just like the Samaritan was an outcast. All at once, they put down their differences and lived in one village. They had learned the lesson of community.

We read in Psalm 147 that the Lord is building up Jerusalem. He is gathering the outcasts of Israel. He is healing their hearts and binding up their wounds. Many years ago we used to sing a song in church about this. These ten lepers were outcasts. They were outcasts because of their disease. But, these are the people that Christ came to save. He came for those who needed a physician. He did not come for those who did not need a Savior.

(Psalm 147:2-3) "The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel. {3} He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds."

In Luke 5 we saw that the Pharisee and scribes were grumbling at Jesus' disciples because He was eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus answered them, saying, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. I believe Jesus did the unthinkable thing and went into a village of lepers. The Father sent Jesus to heal and save these lepers. These were the people that Jesus was reaching out to. These ten lepers knew they needed the Physician.

(Luke 5:30-32) "The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?" {31} And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. {32} "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luke records that they raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When we are in need, whether it is about a sickness, a sin, a financial need, or anything else, that is a great plea. Jesus, Master, have mercy on me. It is the mercy of God that heals us of our sins, our sicknesses, and our situations. These lepers knew they had a need and asked Jesus to have mercy on them. The Pharisees and Scribes that Jesus has been dealing with did not see their need. They were not asking Jesus to have mercy on them. They were angry and jealous of Jesus. **The lepers recognized their need and asked for mercy.**

(Luke 17:13) “and they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"”

Notice also that the lepers asked Jesus to have mercy on “us.” **They prayed as a community.** They prayed about the interests of everyone. They were in agreement about their prayer request. There is power in agreement. In Matthew 18, Jesus said that “if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.” Today, is our monthly time of corporate prayer. We are gathered in His name, and according to His word, He is here in our midst. As we agree together in prayer about the requests that we have today, we can pray with confidence.

(Matt 18:19-20) “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. {20} For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

Not only do we have to pray in agreement, but **we must pray in agreement according to the will of God.** John says, “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

(1 John 5:14-15) “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. {15} And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

I love one of the words that we use in prayer. It is the word that we use at the end of our prayers: amen. It comes from the Hebrew word, aman (Strong’s H539). The primitive root means to build up, support, or to foster as a parent or nurse. **When we say amen at the end of a prayer, we are saying that we support this prayer.** Like a foster parent, we are taking responsibility for this prayer, even though the request may be for someone else. We have adopted it and are fully behind seeing this prayer answered. When the church learns to support one another in our prayers, we are becoming more of a community.

Amen, (Strong’s G281); truly; from H539, “a primitive root; properly to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; figurative to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet;”

Let us learn some lessons from the lepers. Let us learn to cry out to the Lord for our needs. Let us learn to recognize our need, His provision, and cry out to Him with our needs. Let us learn to plea for His mercy on us, not just ourselves. There are lots of us in our community that need healing of various sicknesses and ailments. Let us come into agreement and raise our voices for God to have

mercy on us. Right now as a church, we have some financial needs. We are not wanting to borrow a lot more money to finish the build-out of our facility. But, we need the space. We need to cry out to the Lord for mercy, and for help with our finances so that we can finish the building.

What do we have in common so that we can build community? In Ephesians 2, Paul taught that Christ had joined together the Gentiles and the Jews. The Gentiles had been separated and were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel. They were outcasts. But, through the blood of Christ, those who were fall off were brought near. **You and I have been made into one group, one community through the blood of Christ.** It was not a common disease that brought us together into one group. It was the common cure for our sins that has brought us together, and made us into one body.

(Eph 2:12-13) “remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. {13} But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Paul goes on to say that Christ is our peace and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall. He has made the two groups into one new man, establishing peace. He has reconciled both in one body to God through the cross.

(Eph 2:14-16) “For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, {15} by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, {16} and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.”

There was a problem in the early church with division and lack of community. In Galatians, Paul confronted Peter because he was hanging out with the Jews and not associating with the Gentiles. There was a problem of community, and Paul addressed it. He goes on to say that there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free man, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. God wants us to live in community and to be one people.

(Gal 3:28) “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

The church today is divided over the gifts of the Spirit, signs and wonders, healings, and over many non-essential doctrines. We need to learn the lesson of the lepers and learn how to live together in community. What will it take to bring community? **We must lay down our differences and strive together for the faith of the gospel.** He exhorts us to be of the same mind, maintain the same love, be united in spirit, and to be intent on one purpose. Standing firm in one spirit does not just happen; it requires us to strive together for the gospel.

(Phil 1:27) “Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel... {2:2} make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”

Paul gives some practical ways for us to live in community. This works for marriages, families, and churches. He tells us to do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but to have humility of mind. He tells us to regard others as more important than ourselves. We must look out for their interests, not just our own interests. Selfishness and selfish ambition ruins community. Humility and unselfish behavior helps people stand firm in one spirit.

(Phil 2:3-5) “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; {4} do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

## 2. The Lesson of Faith and Obedience

**The second lesson we can learn from the lepers is faith.** When Jesus entered the village, the ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him. **The lepers had faith and were expecting Jesus to come.** There was not an ad in the paper that announced Jesus was coming. There was no public announcement on the radio or TV telling them that Jesus, the Master was coming to their village. These lepers knew that this was Jesus from a distance, and they met Him. Are we expecting Jesus to appear in our community and church?

(Luke 17:12) “As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him. {13} and they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"”

Notice also that they knew who Jesus was. They said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” They were confessing Him to be their Savior and their Lord. They believed in Him and they addressed Him that way. They also had faith that He could heal them of their leprosy. They cried out to Him to have mercy on them. They were believing God for their healing.

When Jesus saw them, He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” There is no record of Him rebuking the leprosy. There is no record of Him casting out a demon. He simply told them to go show themselves to the priest. It says that as they were going, they were cleansed. They simply responded in obedience to what Jesus told them to do, and they were cleansed. **They had faith to start walking towards the place that the priests were.** Their works demonstrated their faith. When the lepers were healed, and the tenth leper came back to thank Jesus, He tells him, “stand up and go; your faith has made you well.” Jesus acknowledges the faith that this leper had.

(Luke 17:14) “When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed.”

(Luke 17:19) “And He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well.”

We learn another lesson from the lepers. When the Lord tells us to do something, we need to obey Him. If He tells us to go show ourselves to the priests, we should head towards the priests. If He calls us to fast, we need to fast. If He calls us to go apologize to someone, we need to go apologize to someone. We should not procrastinate. We should not make excuses. We need to respond immediately in obedience. God honors our faith, and He honors our obedience. **These lepers immediately obeyed the word of the Lord.**

In the Old Testament, Naaman was captain of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man and highly respected. He was a valiant warrior, but he became a leper.

(2 Kings 5:1) “Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper.”

A little girl knew about Elisha’s ministry and told Naaman’s wife that the prophet could cure her husband of leprosy. Naaman’s wife told him about Elisha, and he told the king. Because the king greatly respected Naaman, he sent word to the King of Israel. The King of Israel was scared and tore his clothes, but Elisha heard that the King had torn his clothes and sent word to the King to have Naaman come to him. (See 2 Kings 5:2-8)

(2 Kings 5:2-7) “Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife. {3} She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy." {4} Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel." {5} Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes. {6} He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy." {7} When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me. {8} It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

When Naaman came and stood at the doorway of Elisha’s house, Elisha told him to go wash in the Jordan seven times and his skin would be restored to him, and he would be clean. This was no different than Jesus telling the lepers to go show themselves to the priests. But, Naaman’s response was not like the lepers. He became furious and went away. He thought Elisha would wave his hand over his leprosy and call on the name of the Lord. Naaman grumbled that the rivers in Damascus were better than the waters in Israel, and turned away in a rage. But, his servants spoke to him, and told him to do this small thing. So, Naaman went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child.

(2 Kings 5:9-14) “So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. {10} Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean." {11} But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper...' {13} “Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. {13} Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" {14} So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan,



according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean.

The lepers did not have to be reminded by anyone. When Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priests, they went obediently. When God does not do things in the way we have it in our preconceived minds, we need to simply obey. He knows what He is doing.

### 3. The Lesson of Gratefulness

**The third lesson we can learn from the lepers is gratefulness.** Luke records that when one of them saw that he had been healed, he turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet giving thanks to Him. Jesus asks three great questions. First, He asks, "were not ten cleansed?" Second, He asks, "where the other nine lepers?" Third, He asks, "was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?"

(Luke 17:15-18) "Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, {16} and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. {17} Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? {18} "Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?"

Originally, I had entitled this message the tenth leper. I believe the main point of this whole passage is giving God glory for the things that He does in our lives, which is what the tenth leper does. But, we can learn from all the lepers. We learn from the good examples and the bad examples. I believe that there are many people in the church that are like the other nine lepers. I believe Jesus is still asking where are the other nine lepers that were cleansed. Where is the rest of the church that has been saved? Where is the rest of the church that have had their needs met? Where is the rest of the church that have been forgiven of all their sins? Where is the rest of the church that has had countless prayers answered? Where is the rest of the church that have spiritual gifts and purpose in their lives? Where is the rest of the church that has been protected and cared for?

Jesus' question was valid at that time, and it is relevant today. Why are we not grateful? Why do we not turn back and give thanks? Here are some possible answers for why we are not grateful.

**1. It is indicative of the last days.** Paul writes in 2 Timothy that in the last days difficult times will come. Men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable... I see all of these characteristics today. We are lovers of money. We are lovers of self. We are boastful, arrogant, and irreconcilable. Notice that ungrateful is in that list. We are in a day that it is rare to find the tenth leper. People are just not grateful.

(2 Tim 3:1-5) "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. {2} For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, {3} unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, {4} treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, {5} holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these."

2. **We have not been taught to give thanks.** We have had poor parenting. It is the responsibility of parents to train their children to say “yes mam, no mam, and thank you.”
3. **We have a sense of entitlement.** We believe that we are owed all of these things. Therefore, when something is given to us, it was merely what we were owed. I see everything that I have as a gift and blessing from God that I must thank Him for. I think we must learn to take nothing as owed to us. Even though I work and get paid, I thank our owners for the opportunity to work, and I thank them for my paychecks. I thank the Lord for each of my paychecks. Even though I worked for it, I am grateful for it. Our country does not owe us welfare. The men and women that protect our country do not owe that to us. We need to give them thanks for their service.
4. **We are too self-preoccupied.** We become so wrapped up in our own lives, our own plans, and our worlds that we do not even think of others. The other nine lepers were so wrapped up in getting to the priests to get a clean certificate and get back to civilization that they did not even think to go back to Jesus.
5. **We are too busy.** We get so busy that we don’t take the time to say thanks. It takes time to buy thank you cards. It takes time to write a thank you card. It takes time to call or send an email. The tenth leper put his life on hold. He stopped his journey to the priests, and took time out to return to Jesus and say thanks. He recognized the importance of rendering thanks, and prioritized his time to give thanks. What I love about Thanksgiving is that we take time in our year, even though it is only a day, to pause and give thanks to God.
6. **We do not recognize God as the source of all things.** Romans 11:36 says that “from Him and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.” He is the source of everything we have. In 1674, Thomas Ken wrote a song titled, Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun. Most people have never heard of the song, but churches have sung the chorus as a doxology for centuries. The chorus goes like this: “Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

(Rom 11:36) “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”

Let’s be a church made up of people that have the heart of the tenth leper. Let’s be a church that regularly takes time out to say thanks. In Psalm 103, David says, “Bless the Lord, o my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, o my soul, and forget none of His benefits; who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion, who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.” You and I have so many things to be thankful for. We have so many things to bless and thank the Lord for. Let’s be a church that forgets none of His benefits.

(Psalm 103:1-5) “Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name. {2} Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; {3} Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; {4} Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; {5} Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.”

Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians that it is God's will that we give thanks to Him in everything. **It is God's will for us to give thanks** continually and at all times. We should give thanks to God every day, not just at Thanksgiving. We should stop on the road and go back like the tenth leper and give glory to God for what He is doing or has just done.

(1 Thess 5:16-18) "Rejoice always; {17} pray without ceasing; {18} in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

When we see the rain or the snow, our response should be to stop and give thanks to God for the moisture. When we see the rainbow at the end of the rain, we should stop and give thanks to God for His promises. When we sit down to eat, we should give thanks to Him for His provision. When we put on our clothes in the morning, we should give thanks for His provision of clothing. When we get paid for our labors, we should give thanks to Him for a job and a paycheck. You and I have so much to give thanks about.

At the start of the message, I mentioned that one of the effects of leprosy was the larynx would be damaged, and that lepers often had weak, raspy voices. When the lepers saw Jesus, they raised their voices. The Greek says, "aero phone." Aero means to lift up and phone means sound. They did their best to lift up what voices they had. However, when the tenth leper came back after being healed, he glorified God with a loud voice. Here, the Greek reads, "megas phone," which means large, big, or loud. We get our English word, megaphone from the combination of these words. His leprosy had been healed, and all the side effects of his leprosy had been healed. And, he was pretty excited about what God had just done for him. Sometimes, in church, we get pretty reserved. It is okay to shout at a football game, but don't get too excited in church. This leper did not hear that social mores; he glorified God with a loud voice. Everyone around heard that megaphone broadcasting his thanksgivings to God.

(Luke 17:12-16) "As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; {13} and they raised (aero) their voices (phone), saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"... {15} Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud (megas) voice (phone), {16} and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan."

In Luke 5, we saw that Jesus healed a leper, and ordered him to tell no one, but to go and show yourself to the priest. When we look at the parallel account in Mark, we find that the man did not do what Jesus ordered. He went out and proclaimed freely. He told everyone what had happened.

(Mark 1:44-45) "He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." {45} But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere."

**When people's lives are touched by God, they will testify to others.** Has your life been touched by the Lord? Has He healed you of your sins? Has He given you life and purpose? Has He been faithful in your life? This morning is our monthly corporate prayer meeting? My desire is that we become like the leper in Luke 5 than cannot stop giving thanks to God and testifying of what He has

done. My desire is that we become like the tenth leper in Luke 17 that stopped and returned to Jesus to thank Him and glorify God. My desire is for us to be a church that is full of thankful people.

Jesus said, “was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?” It is God’s people who should be known for their gratitude. It was not the Samaritans, but the nine Jews who should have been thankful. All the lives were changed, but only one gave thanks. This morning, God is looking to see who is going to return and give glory to Him. Who is going to give thanks to Him for all that He has done for us.

(Luke 17:18) “Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?”

As we begin our corporate prayer time, I would like us to start off by giving thanks to the Lord. We have ushers around the room that will give you the microphone. Raise your hand and one of the ushers will give you the microphone. Return thanks to the Lord for what He is doing and has done in your life. If our entire prayer time this morning is nothing but thanks, I am okay with that. God is okay with that. He knows our needs before we even ask Him. Our primary job is to love God with all of our hearts. This morning, we are expressing our love and gratitude to Him. I will start us off with some thanks, so put your hands up so our ushers can give you the microphone. You can start as soon as I have finished starting us off.

Father, thank You for Your word. Thank You for the example of the tenth leper. Father, I thank You for my salvation. I thank You for softening my heart, opening my eyes, and revealing Yourself to me. Thank You for forgiving my sins, and cleansing me from all unrighteousness. Thank You for renewing my mind, and filling it with Your word. Thank You for the gifts You have deposited in my life. Thank You for my wife and children. They are precious gifts from You. Thank You for giving me purpose in life. Father, thank You for Your faithful provision in my life. There were so many times that we were in tight spots and I had a lot of mouths to feed, and You always came through and met our needs. Father, I give You thanks this morning.

**Introduction** (Luke 1:3-4, 17:11-19, John 21:25)

- God expects us to be faithful in handling His \_\_\_\_\_ . (Luke 16:1-15)
- We are stewards of our \_\_\_\_\_ and we must be faithful with them. (1 Pet 4:10)
- The main point of this passage is learning to be \_\_\_\_\_ for the work that God does in our lives.

**1. The Lesson of Community**

- The first lesson we can learn from the lepers is \_\_\_\_\_ . (Luke 17:11-16, Lev 13-14, Ps 147:2-3, Luke 5:30-32)
- The lepers recognized their \_\_\_\_\_ and asked for mercy. (Luke 17:13)
- They prayed as a \_\_\_\_\_ . (Matt 18:19-20)
- We must pray in \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_ . (1 John 5:14-15)
- When we say amen at the end of a prayer, we are saying that we \_\_\_\_\_ this prayer. (Strong's G281, H539)
- You and I have been made into one group, one community through the \_\_\_\_\_ . (Eph 2:12-16, Gal 3:28)
- We must lay down our differences and strive together for the faith of the \_\_\_\_\_ . (Phil 1:27, 2:2-5)

**2. The Lesson of Faith and Obedience**

- The second lesson we can learn from the lepers is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The lepers had faith and were \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus to come. (Luke 17:12)
- They had faith to start \_\_\_\_\_ towards the place that the priests were. (Luke 17:14)
- These lepers immediately \_\_\_\_\_ the word of the Lord. (2 Kings 5:1-14)

**3. The Lesson of Gratefulness** (Ps 103:1-5)

- The third lesson we can learn from the lepers is \_\_\_\_\_ . (Luke 17:15-18)

**Possible Reasons why we are not grateful:**

1. It is indicative of the \_\_\_\_\_ . (2 Tim 3:1-5)
  2. We have not been \_\_\_\_\_ to give thanks.
  3. We have a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ .
  4. We are too \_\_\_\_\_ .
  5. We are too \_\_\_\_\_ .
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  - When people's lives are touched by God, they will \_\_\_\_\_ to others. (Mark 1:44-45)

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