

LIVING THANKFULLY : The Story of the Ten Lepers



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"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

The story of the Ten Lepers begins in brokenness and ends in thanksgiving. From the story we learn that there are four steps that lead to gratitude.

Four Steps To Gratitude

1st Step: **RECOGNIZE** who is in charge

"...ten lepers...lifted up their voices and said, 'Jesus, **Master...**'" (v. 13)

If the **World** is in charge, wholeness comes from...

- **PLEASURE** (WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?)

"...by the pleasures of living, the life is choked out of them, and they produce nothing." Luke 8:14 (Ph)

- **POSSESSIONS** (WHAT DO I WANT TO HAVE?)

"Beware! Don't always be wishing for what you don't have. Real life and real living are not related to how rich we are." Luke 12:15 (LB)

- **PRESTIGE** (WHAT DO OTHERS THINK OF ME?)

"So don't be impressed with those who...pile up fame...they can't take it with them; fame and fortune all get left behind." Psalm 49:18-19 (MSG)

If **God** is in charge wholeness comes from being **LOVED** (Jeremiah 31:3) and discovering your **PURPOSE** (Jeremiah 29:11).

"Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8 (NRSV)

2nd Step: **CONFESS** what blocks your path

"...have mercy on us..." (v. 13)

"It is your sins that have cut you off from God." Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

Categories of sin:

Sins of COMMISSION

The sin of ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT

Sins of OMISSION

"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong." 1 John 1:9 (NRSV)

3rd Step: **DO** as you are instructed

"[Jesus] said to them, '**Go...**'" (v. 14)

What is Jesus asking you to do?

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... soul, and ... mind. ... You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:36, 39 (NRSV)

4th Step: **PRAISE** God

"Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, **praising** God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, **giving him thanks.**" (v. 15-16)

"I'm about to burst with song; I can't keep quiet about you. God, my God, I can't thank you enough." Psalm 30:13 (MSG)

Thou hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more, a grateful heart...
Not thankful when it pleases me,
As though thy blessing had spare days;
But such a heart whose pulse may be,
Thy praise.

-George Herbert