

THREE SIGNIFICANT LESSONS

Text: Luke 17:11-19

Key Word: Thankfulness

Key Thought: God Honours Those Who Are Thankful

Have you ever been told as a young person that you've just learned a very important lesson? There are definite events and circumstances in life that teach us life-long lessons.

The Bible is a vast resource of lessons for life. The Holy Spirit included certain events to teach us lessons. This particular text has a very important lesson for life. In fact, it has "**Three Significant Lessons.**"

I. LESSON FROM THE TEN - The Need of Cleansing (Luke 17:11-14)

II. LESSON FROM THE NINE - The Sin of Unthankfulness (Luke 17:17-18)

III. THE LESSON OF THE ONE - The Beauty of Thankfulness

I. LESSON FROM THE TEN - The Need of Cleansing (Luke 17:11-14)

It's interesting to note that only Luke, the physician, recorded this miracle. Being a doctor he knew first hand the terrible implications of being a leper. Anyone who was even suspected of having leprosy was isolated immediately from public life. They would have to appear before a priest for inspection (Leviticus 13,14).

*"The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt (uncovered), cover the lower part of his face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!'
46. As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp."*

Leviticus 13:45,46

They became the outcast of society. They would usually lose their homes. It was not uncommon to have leprosy colonies outside of the cities made as dens in the rocks.

Lepers were refused employment. Their only means of support was what they achieved through begging at the entrance of the cities. Their families were not allowed to be in close contact with them. **They were doomed to a life of isolation.**

I. LESSON FROM THE TEN - The Need of Cleansing (Luke 17:11-14) (Contd.)

They were not allowed to appear in the temple area. Since this was their meeting place with God, their only form of worship was cut off. Their torn, unkept clothing was a symbol of their grief. Leprosy stood as a vivid symbol of someone's need to be cleansed. Leprosy carried with it the thought of judgement because many supposed that it came as a result of sin (i.e. - Moses because of his disbelief - Exodus 4:6,7; Miriam because of her pride and envy - Numbers 12:10). No wonder the lepers shouted,

" . . . Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Luke 17:13

They had been in slavery long enough to their cruel task master. Every day brought a rude awakening that they were slowly dying without any possibility of help.

To the Rabbis, the cure of leprosy was as difficult as raising a person from the dead. Only God was considered powerful enough to raise the dead back to life. To request such an act indicates that these men were prepared to be daring in their faith. Their faith was totally directed to their new Master - Jesus.

*** Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871) was an invalid most of her life. In 1836 her brother, Rev H. V. Elliot, was raising funds for St Mary's Hall, in Brighton England. It was to be a college for the daughters of the poor clergy.

A bazaar was held in Brighton for this purpose and all of the Elliot's family were busy working for it. On the night before the bazaar, Charlotte was awake most of the night. She was lamenting her inability to do anything.

During the day of the bazaar, as she lay on the couch, apparently useless, while all the rest of the family were busy at work, there came to her mind the words of Dr. Caesar Malan, a clergyman, from Geneva who had visited her home fourteen years earlier.

He had been urging Miss Elliott to *"give her heart to Christ, and become a useful worker for Him."*

At first she resented the suggestion, but later she said, *"But I do not know how to find Christ?"* Dr, Malan simply replied, *"Come to Him just as you are."*

Lying there on the couch, the invalid wrote **"Just as I Am."** It was published first of all in the *"Christian Remembrance"* which Miss Elliott edited. A lady who admired it reprinted it in leaflet form, evidently without the author's name. (Contd.)

I. LESSON FROM THE TEN - The Need of Cleansing (Luke 17:11-14) (Contd.)

*** A copy of it came into the hands of Miss Elliott's physician, and one day he gave it to her, thinking it would prove to comfort her. He was surprised to learn that he was presenting the hymn back to its author. ***

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT A PLEA

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou biddest me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come!
2. Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
to Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come!
3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come!
4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind,
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come!
5. Just as I am Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come!
6. Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken very barrier down,
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Charlotte Elliott 1836

We must all appear before God as an invalid in need of a cleansing. **LEARN THE LESSON FROM THE 10.**

"And as they went, they were cleansed."

Luke 17:14

II. LESSON FROM THE NINE - The Sin of Unthankfulness (Luke 17:17-18)

"O Lord, that lends me life, lend me a heart replete (abundant) with thankfulness."

William Shakespear
"Henry VI, Part II"

There is no doubt that all 10 of the lepers were healed as they walked away in faith and obedience to our Lord's command (vs. 17). There is also no indication as some suggest that 9 of them later lost their healing.

"And as they went, they were cleansed."

Luke 17:14b

Notice who it was that returned after going through the common procedure of presenting himself to the priest for approval to be able to re-enter society living.

*"**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."*

Luke 17:15,16

The gospel of Luke often mentions the Samaritans in a positive manner. The Holy Spirit wanted us to understand why Jesus went out of His way as He headed to Jerusalem.

*"As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, **Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.**
52. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him;
53. **but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.**"*

Luke 9:53

Jesus knew that there were **some** that would be willing to change in their narrow-mindedness if they only sensed His compassionate heart. He had to teach by His actions of love.

II. LESSON FROM THE NINE - The Sin of Unthankfulness (Luke 17:17-18) (Contd.)

Any non-Jew or foreigner recognized that they had little or no religious privileges. It was also very clear that the Jews paraded their privileges before the Samaritans. There was a constant rivalry between them. Samaritans were like half-brothers who were not welcome into the family.

This story challenges us to examine our hearts to see if we have also taken for granted the blessings we so abundantly receive. What was the problem with the nine lepers?

1. Had familiarity bred contempt?
2. Perhaps they felt they had done nothing to deserve such a fate and therefore it was just to be restored to health.
3. Perhaps they put obedience before love.
4. Could it be that they were prejudice and racism had again raised its ugly head now that their humbling misery had been healed?
5. Maybe they felt that words of appreciation were unnecessary since God knew their hearts.

No matter what they felt or thought, their actions disappointed the LORD.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord."

Psalm 92:1 KJV

The hymn writer reminds us,

Count your blessings,
Name them one by one,
Count your blessings
See what God hath done."

J. Oatman Jr.

LEARN THE LESSON FROM THE NINE,

"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?'"

Luke 17:17,18

III. THE LESSON OF THE ONE - The Beauty of Thankfulness (Luke 17:15,16,19)

I've yet to meet a person who is continually thankful that I've not been drawn to.

DO SOMETHING THIS THANKSGIVING

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

LIVE
Nov 88

The Bible says that the Samaritan returned with a loud voice (NASB, NIV). This time though, his words were of praise not anguish. You'd think that this open expression of thankfulness would be sufficient. BUT NO! **He threw himself at the feet of Jesus and continued to give thanks.**

Many would think that this was completely unnecessary, perhaps looking for attention. Why fall on your face? He had just be cleansed, wouldn't it be better to keep clean?

But lets consider what ordeal the Samaritan had just come through.

READ: Leviticus 14:1-20

The Levitical regulations displayed an important lesson for anyone receiving a cleansing. **It cost a life to make a leper clean. In fact, by the 8th day it cost several animal's lives.**

A greater truth had no doubt come to his attention. He was now cleansed by what would happen in 8 days. **The 8th day would be a Day of Atonement for him.** Two male lambs would be sacrificed.

So also this cleansed leper could look to Jesus as the Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world. It would take a measure of faith to believe it. **His faith was more complete because it was combined with thankfulness.**

**III. THE LESSON OF THE ONE - The Beauty of Thankfulness (Luke 17:15,16,19)
(Contd.)**

LEARN THE LESSON FROM THE ONE.

*" "One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice . . .
16. He threw himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. . .
19. Rise and go; your faith has made you well."*

Luke 17:15,16,19

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X7)\Sermons.2016\Special Days\Luke 17:11.19.wpd

Date: Oct 9/16 (Thanksgiving)

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30Am

Song: Give Thanks - F

THREE SIGNIFICANT LESSONS

Text: Luke 17:11-19

Key Word: Thankfulness

Key Thought: God Honours Those Who Are Thankful

I. LESSON FROM THE TEN - The Need of Cleansing (Luke 17:11-14) - *Leviticus 13,14; Leviticus 13:45,46; Exodus 4:6,7; Numbers 12:10; Luke 17:13; Luke 17:14*

II. LESSON FROM THE NINE - The Sin of Unthankfulness (Luke 17:17-18) - *Luke 17:17; Luke 17:14b; Luke 17:15,16; Luke 9:53; Psalm 92:1 KJV; Luke 17:17,18*

III. THE LESSON OF THE ONE - The Beauty of Thankfulness (Luke 17:15,16,19) - *Leviticus 14:1-20; Luke 17:15,16,19*