

The Power of Thankfulness "BOGO"

Luke 17:11-19 (NIV) *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 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."*

Go show yourself to the priest

In the law of Moses, people suspected to have leprosy had to go and show themselves to the priest. The priest would then inspect them and determine whether they were "clean" or "unclean"

Law for lepers.

Leviticus 13:45-46 (NASB) *"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.*

The Rabbis made fixed distances that lepers should keep a rod's distance away or even up to 100 paces. So essentially, if you were a leper, based on the Rabbi's rules, you'd yelling to communicate.

Something to think about:

- ✓ According to the Law of Moses, these Lepers were supposed to cry with a loud voice, "Unclean, Unclean!" Instead they cried, "Have mercy on us!" These guys knew that they were dealing with Jesus.
- ✓ Jesus directed these 10 lepers back to the law. As they were going they were cleansed. Could it be that if we just begin doing what God has already directed us to do in His word that we would see the manifestations of His promises in our lives?
- ✓ The leper who returned was a Samaritan. Jesus called him a foreigner. For our modern day, we would call them a worldly person or someone who does not know God. Not a faithful church member, not a believer. Jesus could be wanting to do more in our lives, to go beyond our cry for mercy and healing, but we may never know unless we're grateful for what He's already done.

What Happened to the Other 9?

v17 *Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"*

Have you ever prayed about something and it was answered, but you didn't really realize it until a day or week later? By that time the intensity/urgency of the need had pass and you'd pretty much gone on with life as usual that you'd never taken a moment to grasp the fact that God actually answered you. Are you apart of the other nine or the one?

A man needed his pants ironed. His wife, as she ironed the pants for him, burned the pants. He was looking forward to wearing these pants because they were brand-new. The husband started getting mad, but stopped to think before reacting and said, "Lord, I thank You that my leg wasn't in those pants."

There is always a reason to give thanks. Especially, if we stop and think about it. Our struggle is that we are so busy or consumed with other things that we don't stop to think.

BOGO

Have you ever purchased everything on your grocery list, but then got mad after realizing that you paid full price for those items on your list after reviewing the "buy one and get the other one for free" sales ads in the paper? You get mad because all you had to do was take a moment to look through the paper and cut out the ads.

*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... v19 Then he said to him, "*Rise and go; your faith has made you well.*"*

God had already cleansed the Samaritan Man from Leprosy, but after returning to show enthused gratitude (**using his coupon**) towards Jesus, he was made well. He got two for the price of one.

Made Well -- G4982 "Sozo" -- Saved, Deliverance from danger, the present experience of God's power to deliver from the bondage of sin.

He received freedom from the hold of sin. Maybe there is something that we've been struggling with. Could it be that as we are grateful for what God has already done that He will just release you from the weight of the other thing? Or maybe it's not a sin, but something else that you'd been praying about. Or something that you've been thinking about.

Ephesians 3:20 (NASB) "*Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,*"
Could that power be thankfulness?

I wonder if the other nine were ever made well.

Let's Reflect

1. Why do you think that Jesus made the Samaritan leper well after returning to express gratitude? Can you think of a time when someone showed you gratitude and in return you did more than what was asked of you?
2. Sometimes we have large and, seemingly, small requests before God. Sometimes we don't even pray about it. The thought is just passes by in our head. Many of these requests or thoughts have been taken care of. When was the last time that you took a moment to take in and think about all that God has done for you?
3. What are some ways that you can incorporate your gratitude and thankfulness towards God?