

# The Importance of Being Thankful

Luke 17:11-19; 2 Chron. 32:24-26; Dan. 4:28-37

## Introduction

This is an obvious time of the year for us to focus on being thankful.

## Possible Scripture Passages:

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

Were they all healed? Then what's the lesson?

The other nine appear to have had a sense of entitlement. The one thankful man is called out as a Samaritan, so it is probable that the others were Jews.

Thankfulness is connected with faith.

2 Chron. 32:24-26 - <sup>24</sup>In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill; and he prayed to the LORD, and the LORD spoke to him and gave him a sign. <sup>25</sup>**But Hezekiah gave no return for the benefit he received, because his heart was proud;** therefore wrath came on him and on Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>26</sup>However, Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come on them in the days of Hezekiah. (2 Kings 20:1-11)

There is a connection between ingratitude and pride, and between gratitude and humility.

Dan. 4:28-37 - <sup>28</sup>All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. <sup>29</sup>Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. <sup>30</sup>The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?' <sup>31</sup>While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, <sup>32</sup>and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whomever He wishes.' <sup>33</sup>Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven

away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

<sup>34</sup>"But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. <sup>35</sup>"And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?' <sup>36</sup>"At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me. <sup>37</sup>"Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

There is a connection between ingratitude and insanity.

And a second example of pride and ingratitude.

1Co 4:7 - For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Humility: Realizing that God and others are actually responsible for all my accomplishments.

And here are a few of the many many verses that simply instruct us to be thankful:

Col. 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

1 Thess. 5: 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Gratitude is the opposite of complaining.

Gratefulness: Making known to God and others how they have benefitted my life.

Thankfulness is an important attribute and activity.

## Dangers of Not Being Thankful:

From the verses we read today and others you know, what are the dangers of being thankful? **God's wrath, mental problems, disobedience**

Rom. 1:20-22 - <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been

made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or **give thanks**; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools,

As I've said before, you don't want to find yourself listed in the second half of Romans 1!

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

Were the unthankful people et al the cause of the perilous times?

God says to avoid those people, so being unthankful puts you on the *persona non grata* list for potential friendship.

### **Benefits of Being Thankful:**

From the verses we read today and others you know, what are the benefits of being thankful? **Peace, sanity, in God's will, close to God (James 4:6), Jesus healing Lazarus**

When we are thankful, we cannot be depressed!

"Every Christian should learn that the spirit of thanksgiving brightens drooping spirits and eliminates depression. Children who are taught to be thankful to God first and then to their parents are well on their way to depression-free living. Teach them early to give thanks for food, love, shelter, health, teachers, and friendship. Children have an amazing ability to learn spiritual truths, and it is often easier for them than for adults to understand that God has a plan even in adverse circumstances." *How to Win Over Depression*, Tim F. LaHaye, p. 234.

If we are thankful, we will be a happier person.

### **Ways to Be Thankful**

We should be thankful at times of celebration (celebrating what God has done).

Ezr 3:11 And they sang, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, *saying*, "For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Israel forever." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Sometimes we are too busy to celebrate what God has done, but we should!

We should be specific about why we are thankful. "What difference did it make? Where would I be or what would my life be like without it?"

We might even need to make a list. Maybe every night.

It's never too late.

### **Conclusion**

Being thankful is an important activity for all year long.

Being thankful is an important result / proof of humility.

Being thankful will result in a healthier life.