

Gratitude - cont.

Their parents were not following the biblical mandate to be thankful and so they did not learn to be thankful.

For others, the problem of ingratitude stems from four barriers (1.) thoughtlessness – many don't consider what God has done for them (Psalm 103:2); (2.) worldliness – many walk by their own human reason rather than obeying God (Romans 1:21); (3.) discontent – many are not happy with what they have or get in life (Philippians 4:11; Hebrews 13:5-6); and, (4.) selfishness – many are simply looking out for their own interests.

In the account of the healing of the 10 lepers that we reviewed above, Jesus asked, "Where are the nine?" (Luke 17:17). He wanted to know where the nine were who left without saying "thank you". The answer to this question today is, the "nine" are in the home, in the church, in society, everywhere. Many are unthankful, but let's be different from them. It is good to thank the Lord because our soul's salvation depends upon it. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

And when ye sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto Jehovah, ye shall sacrifice it that ye may be accepted - Leviticus 22:24

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: Give thanks unto him, and bless his name - Psalm 100:4

Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving - Colossians 4:2

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Developing An Attitude of Gratitude

This is the time of year when many people are thinking about Thanksgiving Day and that is a good thing. We are actually to be thankful each and every day of the year. It's good for all of us and our children to learn to develop an attitude of gratitude, as we say, "twenty-four seven, three hundred sixty-five".

Thankfulness Is a Command

Thankfulness in the New Testament is a command. We are commanded to give thanks and be thankful in the following verses: Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:15,17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; and 2 Timothy 2:1. It is clear from these scriptures that thankfulness is to be a regular part of the Christian life. But, why is thankfulness commanded? What good will thankfulness do for us? The psalmist writes: *It is a good thing to give thanks unto Jehovah, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High* (Psalm 92:1). Why is it a good thing? Is thankfulness merely a social courtesy, or Western cultural tradition? Or, is their more to it?

Lessons from the Lepers

Consider the New Testament account of the 10 lepers that Jesus healed in Luke 17:11-19. The lepers were quick to ask for mercy and help for their leprosy, but not to say "thank you". Jesus had mercy on all of them and healed them all of their leprosy, but only one returned to say "thank you".

How common ingratitude really is. Nine out of ten were ungrateful! And, the ungrateful ones did not receive the greater blessing of Jesus' commendation (verse 19), only the one did who returned to say, "thank you".

Let's take a closer look at the one who returned to Jesus to say "thank you". First, he saw that he was healed – he had consideration. Second, he turned back – he had appreciation. Third, he glorified God – he had reverence. Fourth, he feel upon his face – he had humility. Fifth, he gave thanks – he had gratitude. Finally, he exercised his faith – he was blessed. Let's all be like this one lone Samaritan man!

What Thankfulness Will Do For You

If we will be a thankful people, what

benefit will it bring to our life? What good will it do for us? First, thankfulness will lead to faithfulness – thankful people are faithful to God (Romans 1:21-25; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Deuteronomy 8:11). Second, thankfulness will lead to good stewardship – thankful people take care of what they have (1 Corinthians 15:10-11; 1 Timothy 1:12ff). Third, thankfulness will lead to purity – thankful people use their tongue to speak what is good (Ephesians 5:4). Fourth, thankfulness will lead to a positive attitude – thankful people avoid a "down-in-the-dumps" disposition (Philippians 4:4-7). Fifth, thankfulness will lead to being attractive – thankful people attract others by putting on Christ (Colossians 3:10-17). Finally, thankfulness will lead to honor – thankful people honor the Great God in heaven (Revelation 4:9; 7:12; 11:17; Psalm 50:23).

Four Barriers to Thanksgiving

Why is it that so many people today are unthankful and are filled with ingratitude. Part of the problem is that these people were not taught from their youth up to be thankful.