

Characters - Ten Lepers

Matt VanCleave

July 23rd, 2023

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will commit my life to be about one thing — to hear God's Word and put it into practice.
- I will do whatever God asks of me.
- I will pay whatever the cost to do what God asks of me.
- I will continually ask God the question, "What's the one thing needed in this moment for me to live as your disciple?"

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

This week we look at a group of desperate characters who approach Jesus for healing. It's one of the most moving stories in the New Testament. We'll look at what contributes to ingratitude and some things we can do to cultivate grateful hearts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think that nine lepers didn't go back and only one thanked Jesus for healing them?

2. Pastor Matt quoted William Barclay who wrote, "So often once a man gets what he wants, he never comes back." Do you relate to this? How do you see yourself – as one of the nine or the one who came back?

3. Pastor Matt said if we are honest, most people would have to admit they are not very grateful. How do you feel about this?

4. Pastor Matt pointed out that many of us come from a privileged upbringing. Why do you think it's easier to focus on the one thing that's bothering you instead of all the blessings you have in our life?

5. King Solomon prayed in Proverbs 30:8-9 "Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord'." How do you feel about this prayer from the wisest man who ever lived?

6. Proverbs 13:20 says "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." And I Corinthians 15:33 says, "Bad company corrupts good character." Why do you think who you choose as your close friends is so important? And do you agree with Pastor Matt that who your friends are shapes how grateful (or ungrateful) you are?

7. II Corinthians 10:12 says, "When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise." Have you ever compared your situation in life to someone else's and felt envious of others or sorry for yourself? Why do you feel that is?

8. Pastor Matt taught that being grateful for imperfect gifts – like our bodies – is one way to develop a grateful heart. If you have a smart phone please look up a Christian motivational speaker named Nick Vujcic. He was born without either arms and legs! He’s also one of the most inspiring people I’ve ever encountered because he is so grateful for his life and calling! How does this make you feel?

9. Pastor Matt quoted GK Chesterson who said, “Gratitude is the mother of all virtues!” And I Thessalonians 5:18 says, “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Have you ever wondered what God’s will is for your life? How do you feel about this exhortation?”

10. I Corinthians 10:10-11 says, “Do NOT grumble, as some of them did-and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us.” AND Philippians 2:14 says, “Do EVERYTHING without grumbling or arguing.” After hearing these two verses how do you feel you are doing in this area of your life?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will learn to be grateful for imperfect gifts.
- I will learn to be grateful in times of worry and frustration.
- I will learn to be grateful by avoiding grumbling and complaining.
- I will express a grateful heart openly, often and in all circumstances.
- I will express a grateful heart by worshiping God.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Luke 17:11-19
- Proverbs 30:8-9

- Proverbs 13:20
- 1 Corinthians 15:33
- 2 Corinthians 10:12
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- 1 Corinthians 10:10-11
- Philippians 2:14
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Psalm 100:4

Prayer Request(s)
