

## Daily Devotional, August 25, 2021 Never Forget to be Thankful

***“One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.” –Luke 17:15-16 (NIV)***

In Luke’s Gospel there is a short story that occurs as Jesus and his disciples are making their way to Jerusalem. They were traveling through an area that was occupied by a large Samaritan population. Some Samaritans had heard that Jesus was in the area. These particular Samaritans just so happened to be afflicted by leprosy. These same individuals set out in search of Jesus, having heard about His healing powers, and when they found Him they begged him, “Have mercy on us.”

Jesus did not turn away from the men for fear of His health. He did not choose to hold back mercy from them because they were Samaritans and not Jews. Instead, Jesus extended mercy. He offered all ten of these lepers healing and encouraged all of them to go see the priests to verify their healing. During Jesus’ time, it was the priest who certified healing. When they met with the priest they were found healed and their relationship with the community was restored.

After hearing this overwhelming news, you would think that these men would have been overwhelmed by gratitude, however, Luke tells us that only one of the men went in search of Jesus so that he could express his gratitude. He found Jesus, “He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him.” It was a beautiful picture of thanksgiving for a life that had been saved from this vicious disease. But also a poignant reminder of how quickly we can forget the grace that has been shown to us.

Luke offers this story as an ultimate reminder of the importance of gratitude. When we experience good in our lives we often respond with great joy, however, we do not always remember to say thank you. Gratitude is an intentional expression. Yet, it is not always part of what we do, and this is evident by the absence of the other nine at the end of this story.

I want to encourage you today to be intentional about gratitude. We have so much to be thankful for. When we experience good, when we receive grace, we must be deliberate about expressing our gratitude. Saying thank you increases our joy and the joy of the one who receives our gratitude. Today, start your prayer with gratitude. Offer God your gratitude for the many blessings in your life. It is good to give thanks and it helps to humble us and to help us have a better perspective on everything else we are facing.

***Prayer: I am extremely grateful for all of Your blessings in my life, Lord. I pray that You remind me of just how blessed I am and that You never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer and returned acts of kindness to those who look out for my needs and help me through life’s trials. May I humbly acknowledge all those You send my way. In Christ’s name I pray, Amen.***