

Remnant Life Church  
November 24, 2013  
“An Ungrateful Heart”  
Luke 17:11-19

- The story of the 10 lepers brings 2 things into focus
  - Gratitude
  - Ingratitude
  
- Thanksgiving Day is one that we focus on the blessings we all share
  - Federal holiday declared by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 during the Civil War
  - “First” Thanksgiving in 1621 celebrated after the first harvest by the Pilgrims in Plymouth
    - Approximately 53 settlers and 90 Native Americans
    - Long before that it was a natural event throughout the year to give thanks to God after a victory battle or the end of a drought or long winter
  - It was a time of celebration for the harvest after the long winter
  - Native Americans were a part of it since they had helped them with understanding farming in the new world
  - 50 years ago the first turkey was given an unofficial/official pardon by the president sparing its life
    - JFK on 11.19.63 – 3 days before he left for Dallas
  
- Read **Luke 17:11-19**
  
- Leprosy in the Bible
  - The word leprosy is used in the Bible to describe a variety of skin diseases
    - This particular type is probably what is referred to today as Hansen’s Disease
    - It is a bacteria that manifests itself in white patches on the skin which will make the nerve endings of the area become numb
    - Injuries to the body are not felt and a deterioration begins to occur if not treated
    - The face is most often effected meaning that the symptoms cannot be hidden
  - **2 Kings** – Naaman the Syrian general
  - **Matt 26** – Jesus at the home of Simon the Leper
  - Leprosy has often been associated with sin as a demonstration of what sin does
    - It spreads
    - It does not kill but neither does it seem to ever end
    - It becomes something very ugly in the person
  - Today leprosy is still present but medical discoveries in the mid 80’s have brought it under control in areas where available
  - Over 95% of the general population is naturally immune to the bacteria
  - Very specific Mosaic laws regarding leprosy (all skin diseases) designed to protect the camp from its spread
  - Jesus refers to those laws when he tells the 10 to show themselves to the priests

- Who were they?
  - One is pointed out as a Samaritan meaning the other 9 must have been Jews
  - Jews looked down on the Samaritans and even hated them as being unclean, impure, idol worshippers
  
- They called out to Jesus
  - Jesus usually asked people what they wanted him to do for them (Mark 10 – Blind Bartimaeus)
  - Jesus often put his hands on people to heal them but he simply spoke to these men
  
- When did their healing occur?
  - When they got to the priest?
  - On the way?
  - When they decided to obey Jesus and go?
  
- Whenever it occurred they were healed yet only one came back
  - Not Jesus' fellow countrymen the Jews but the "foreigner"
  - Nine reasons why the others did not come back:
    1. One waited to see if the cure was real
    2. One waited to see if it would last
    3. One said he would catch up with and thank Jesus later
    4. One decided he never actually had leprosy
    5. One said he would probably have gotten better anyway
    6. One gave the glory to the priests
    7. One said "Jesus really didn't do anything"
    8. One said "Any Rabbi could have done it"
    9. One said "I was already feeling a lot better"
  
- Doesn't that sound like what you hear today when God does something wonderful in someone's life?
  - Perhaps you have found yourself thinking or saying one of these
  - When we do this we rob ourselves of the blessing of learning more about the nature of God
  
- God's work is supernatural
  - The definition of that word is simply anything that it is beyond the natural meaning what we can grasp, understand, or explain as being everyday acceptable behavior or activity
  - God is outside of the natural
  - The world must always be able to explain what takes place otherwise they are forced to acknowledge the presence and power of God
  
- How can I keep from becoming one of the nine?
  - Humility
  - Acknowledge all that God has done
  - Focus on His blessings not on your own desires
  - Resist the urges to grumble and complain

- The Bible gives warnings against grumbling all throughout
- Moses to Jesus chastising His disciples
- Live expectantly
  - **Psalms 5:3** - *In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.*