

Remnant Life Church
November 25, 2014
“Why Should I Be Grateful?”
Luke 17:11-19

1. This coming Thursday we will enjoy and celebrate Thanksgiving
 - It and Christmas hold some of my fondest, warmest memories
 - Family, food, days off from school or work, and a time to reflect on the goodness of God in our lives

2. Paul tells us in **I Thes 5:16-18** to - *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
 - How do we, and we have asked this question before, give thanks in all circumstances?
 - There are a number of ways – certainly our perspective of a situation impacts our thinking.

 - **Read Illustration – “Proper Perspective”**

3. Our attitudes, perhaps more than anything else, impact our ability to be grateful.
 - There are 3 attitudes that will steal our gratitude and keep us from being grateful

Pride (**Prov 8:13** - *I hate pride and arrogance...*)

- a. This is the person who believes that anything they have is because they have earned it or deserve it
- b. Today it is the sense of entitlement that has permeated our culture's thinking and it is the worst in the under 30 group
- c. Anything that I have I have no one to thank but myself

Complaining and the critical spirit (**Phil 2:14** – *do everything without grumbling and arguing...*)

- d. The one who can find fault and error with anything
- e. Complaining inevitably leads to worry and anxiety
 - An average person's anxiety is focused on:
 1. 40% -- things that will never happen, 30% -- things about the past that can't be changed, 12% -- things associated with criticism by others, mostly untrue, 10% -- about their health, which gets worse with stress, 8% -- about real problems that will actually need to be dealt with.
 2. So if only 8% of our anxiety is justified why do our lives not reflect 92% of our time spent in clam and contentment?

Carelessness

- f.* We can easily get to the place of taking something for granted that we should be very grateful for.
- g.* The Israelites grumbled in the desert because:
 - They had nothing to eat
 - They got tired of manna
 - There was no variety
- h.* God kept them alive but they grew careless in their attitude

READ - Luke 17:11-19

- Leprosy was used in the Bible as a representation of sin (Num 12:10 – Miriam’s punishment)
 - 100 paces away from other people
 - Torn clothes to identify them
 - Covering of the face to prevent intimacy
- The ten lepers represent many of us today when we are blessed in that we hesitant to give the credit and glory to where it should go
 - Suggestions of what the attitudes of the other 9 might have been: (Do we see ourselves in any of these?)
 - One waited to see if the cure was real
 - One waited to see if it would last
 - One thought he would probably just see Jesus later
 - One decided he probably didn’t really have leprosy to begin with
 - One said he was most likely going to recover on his own anyway
 - One gave credit to the priests
 - One thought Jesus probably didn’t really do anything for me
 - One thought that any rabbi probably could have done what Jesus did
 - One said he was already starting to feel a lot better
- But what of the one? What happened to him?
 - The first thing he did was humble himself before Jesus
 - Fell at the feet of Jesus (v 16)
 - Our value in the Kingdom of God is never so great then when we are at the lowest posture we can possibly assume
 - He put aside his discomfort and disadvantage
 - He was a Samaritan (v 6)
 - They were, according to the Jews, an impure race resulting from their Jewish ancestors having children with non-Jewish cultures
 - He came right up to Jesus because his gratitude outweighed his circumstances
 - He was made *well* (v 19)
 - Well - (so-zo) def: to preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save or rescue

- Not only was this man healed of leprosy but he was saved from eternal damnation
- Why? “Your faith has made you well”
- Faith will bring about change
 - o All of the lepers exhibited faith
 - o Only one expressed gratitude

Why should I be grateful?

- Complaining denies God’s sovereignty
- Complaining disrupts Christian unity
- Complaining discredits your Christian testimony

Why should I be grateful?

- Jesus rescued me from sin even though I did nothing to deserve it
- Jesus loves me even though I am most times unloving in return
- Jesus cares about and will supply my everyday needs even though I will usually think of myself, my family, and my friends long before I ever think of Him

When was the last time that your prayers to God consisted of nothing but thanking Him?

- No requests
- No problems
- No interceding
- Just thanking Him