

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, February 7, 2016
Are You One of The Nine Or Are You The One?
Luke 17:11-19

- In 1860 a crowded passenger steamer began to sink in Lake Michigan
 - Edward Spenser – student at a nearby bible college
 - Saved a woman from drowning
 - Went out 16 more times
 - Severe health issues for the rest of his life because of that day
 - Could not enter the ministry
 - Lived in California and lived to the age of 81
 - Death notice said – not one of the 17 ever sought him out to say thank you

- “I Am Thankful For”

- **READ Luke 17:11-19**

- What would keep them from going back to say thank you?
- What prevents us?
 1. Not convenient
 - Gratitude is not always convenient
 - Writer of Hebrews referred to it as a “sacrifice of praise” (**Heb. 13:15**)
 - To be thankful requires effort
 - I realize that it takes effort and is not always convenient to come to church; spend time in prayer and reading the Word; even giving to God
 - But He always blesses us when we take the time to worship Him with our thanks

 2. Too proud
 - To be grateful requires a measure of humility
 - I am deferring to you and what you did
 - **Prov 22:4** - *Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honor and life.*
 - James 4:6 - *God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble*
 - James 4:10 - *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

 3. Too Self-Conscious
 - ‘I wouldn’t know what to say.’
 - We must learn the language of gratitude and make it a natural part of our very nature (PRAYER)

- A balanced prayer life
A – Adoration

C – Confession
T – Thanksgiving
S – Supplication – humble requests
I – Intercession
P – Personal needs and desires

- The order should be A – T – C – I – S – P

4. Still felt sorry for themselves

- One of those lepers could have been sick his entire life and was thinking “Well it’s about time!”
- Too many times we are so focused on how tough we had it (the past) that we miss the daily blessings of our lives (now)
- Remember – the hardest of times are often blessings in disguise
- The most difficult people you encounter may be angels unaware (**Heb 13:2**)

5. I don’t need to say thanks, he knows how I feel

- Woman asked her husband if he loved her. Of course I do he replied. Why don’t you ever tell me she asked? I told you 40 years ago that I loved you on the day we got married and if I ever change my mind I’ll let you know.
- God doesn’t need to hear our gratitude expressed to Him but He loves when we do because it is an expression of a heart that is right
- On the other hand – we do need to hear words of gratitude – all of us
- Thanksgiving brings glory and honor to God
- Thanksgiving brings a sense of joy and peace in our hearts with each other

6. Too busy with the everyday things of life

- The cycle of today’s rat race can push very important things of our lives out of our minds
- Appointments; important dates; **CHANGES TO A CHURCH START TIME!**; or remembering to do the little things like say thank you – I appreciate you – I sure do love you
- Don’t let the treadmill of your life’s activities run you over

7. Just don’t feel like it

- This, more than any other, is the most dangerous
- It can so easily penetrate the rest of our lives
- Poisoning other areas
- “I don’t feel like it”
- The ego and pride of self

- (Paul wrote) ...*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus* (**I Thess 5:18**)

I want to encourage you today to...

- Come up to Dave Nicola and the worship team and thank them for all the time they invest in leading us in worship
- Husbands tell your wife thank you for loving me, doing all that you do around the house and just for me
- Wives tell your husband thank you for loving me, working hard, praying over and caring from me
- College kids – give someone at home a call before this day is over and just say thank you!
- November is not the only time we should be thankful – let every day be Thanksgiving Day