

WAYS TO SHOW OUR THANKSGIVING-PT 1
VARIOUS SCRIPTURE

Introduction

I am sure that there are many **things** that each one of us is **GRATEFUL** for. I am sure that there are many **people** that each one of us is **GRATEFUL** for. Next Sunday evening we plan to have our annual **THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE SERVICE** to give you an opportunity to express your **THANKSGIVING** and **PRAISE** to the **LORD** for **HIS** goodness!

Most of the time, when we are **GRATEFUL** for what someone has done, we try to find a way to **THANK** them in some way. Often we express our **GRATITUDE** with our **mouths**, sometimes it may be with a **card**, other times it may be with a **small gift** or with a **reciprocal kind deed** or it may even be **in some other way that I've not mentioned**.

When someone expresses their **THANKS** to us for something we have done for them, we **APPRECIATE** it, don't we? But on the other hand, none of us **APPRECIATE** those who are **INGRATES!**

We have a day established in our nation called **THANKSGIVING DAY** coming next week. And, by the way, it is "**THANKSGIVING DAY**" so please don't devalue the day by calling it "**TURKEY DAY!**"

THANKSGIVING DAY was established as a special day to show and express our **GRATITUDE to GOD** for all the things that **HE** has done for us as a nation and as individuals. But over the years, that emphasis has waned and way too many other things have taken the place of **TRULY GIVING THANKS to GOD!**

If there is anyone that should show and express **GRATITUDE TO GOD** for the **BLESSINGS HE GIVES**, it is the **BELIEVER IN CHRIST!**

Our **GRATITUDE to GOD** should be something that is evident in our lives! We should be willing to let our **GRATITUDE** show so that others, and especially **GOD**, can see our **GRATITUDE** for **HIM!** (Which, by the way, is one of the ways that we can really **GLORIFY GOD** in and through our life!)

I want to share with you some ways to let our THANKSGIVING show!
We're going to look at two this week and two next week, LORD willing!

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Read Luke 17:11-19.

Most of us are familiar with this story. Ten very sick men who were **LEPERS** approached **JESUS**.

This disease had eaten away at their bodies and had made them **social outcasts**, so they lived rather **lonely lives** as they were **separated from their families, friends, and society in general**.

If they happened to come in close proximity to others, they were required to cover their faces and cry "**Unclean! Unclean!**" to warn others of their terrible condition.

We see here that these ten **LEPERS** came near **JESUS** and cried out to **HIM** asking for **MERCY!** Now, **JESUS** gave them a rather unusual answer. He told them to go show themselves to the **PRIESTS**.

When someone was **HEALED** of **LEPROSY**, they were required to appear before the **PRIESTS** in order to be **DECLARED CLEAN** to be admitted back into society.

But these **LEPERS** had not been **HEALED** as yet. It was a step of **FAITH** for them to **BELIEVE** that as they went to the **PRIESTS**, they would be **HEALED!**

Vs. 14 tells us that **AS THEY WENT THEY WERE HEALED! (All 10!)**

Can you imagine the joy and relief these former **LEPERS** must have felt? As they were **HEALED** can you imagine what might have they been thinking?

*"I've got to hurry to the **PRIESTS** so I can get back to my family!"*

*"I've got to hurry to the **PRIESTS** so I can function in society again!"*

*"I've got to hurry to the **PRIESTS** so I can get on with life!"*

But, we see that **ONE** of these **TEN** former **LEPERS** did something quite different! He immediately returned to **JESUS** to **WORSHIP HIM** out of **GRATITUDE!**

And that is the first way we should **SHOW OUR THANKSGIVING!**

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I. **WE SHOULD LET OUR THANKSGIVING SHOW THROUGH OUR WORSHIP! (LUKE 17:15)**

It says here that he **GLORIFIED GOD with a LOUD VOICE!**
It wasn't with a soft, *"Thank you LORD, I'm well."* It was a **LOUD, BOOMING, "PRAISE GOD! I'M HEALED!"**
Anyone nearby would have had no trouble hearing him!

Verse 16 says that he fell down on his face at the feet of **JESUS GIVING HIM THANKS!**

What was unique about this, was that he wasn't even a full-blooded **JEW**. He was one of the half-breed **JEWS**, called a **SAMARITAN**.

In **verses 17-18** we see that **JESUS** points out that there were nine others who **DIDN'T** come back to **WORSHIP**. And also that the one who was least likely to show gratitude was the only one who did!

Every person who has been marvelously changed by **CHRIST** ought to **SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE THROUGH THEIR WORSHIP!**
Don't you think that it is just **reasonable** that we should be **ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO GOD** for what **HE** has done for us and show that through our **WORSHIP!**

Andrae Crouch said it this way in his song entitled, *"My Tribute."*

*How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved yet You give to prove Your love for me!
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude!
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee!*

*To God be the glory, To God be the glory,
To God be the glory for the things He has done!
With His blood He has saved me! With His power He has raised me!
To God be the glory for the things He has done!*

*Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing Lord to thee
and should I gain any praise let it go to Calvary.*
(Andrae Crouch, Copyright 1971, Lexicon Music Inc.)

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Look at **verse 19**. I believe that Jesus was talking of more than just physical **HEALING** here. This man's **FAITH** had **SAVED** him and had given him **ETERNAL LIFE!** You can't be **WHOLE** until you are **BORN AGAIN!**

Listen to me, **WORSHIPING GOD** and **BEING GRATEFUL** for **HIS SALVATION** is part of truly being a **CHRISTIAN!** I have my doubts about those who profess to be **CHRISTIANS**, but don't have any desire to **TRULY WORSHIP GOD WITH GRATITUDE IN THEIR HEARTS!**

Hebrews 13:15—*"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18—*"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

As we sing the various **PSALMS and HYMNS and SPIRITUAL SONGS** of **FAITH** in our **WORSHIP** time...**ARE YOU TRULY WORSHIPING THE LORD?** Is your **HEART** engaged in **WORSHIP** or is your mind wandering in *"la la land"* disconnected from what's being said and sung? If you can't sing, at least you can mouth the words and be a part of what's going on!

Some **SING** but you can tell that their **SINGING** is disconnected from their **HEARTS!** (i.e. Their **HEARTS** just aren't in it!)

IF WE TRULY KNOW CHRIST, we ought to be **SINGING** from **HEARTS** that are **OVERFLOWING** with **WORSHIP to GOD** because of what the **LORD** has done and is doing for us!

And listen, I understand that some of you may be going through a difficult time **FINANCIALLY**. But listen, it isn't **JUST** what we have in our **POCKETS** that should make us **THANKFUL**, but what we have in our **HEART!** Because that which is in our **POCKET** is **TEMPORAL**, but that which is in our **HEART** is **ETERNAL!**

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Daniel Webster once said, *“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money cannot buy!”*

WE SHOULD LET OUR THANKSGIVING SHOW THROUGH OUR WORSHIP.

II. WE SHOULD LET OUR THANKSGIVING SHOW THROUGH OUR WITNESS. (LUKE 8:26-40)

Here we see a man who had been possessed with a **LEGION OF DEMONS** but the **LORD JESUS DELIVERED** him from those **DEMONS!** Because of the **DEMONS**, he had **SUFFERED** a terrible life of **ISOLATION** and **INSANITY**.

But notice now how that this man was so **GRATEFUL** to **JESUS** for what **HE** had done for him that he wanted to **FOLLOW JESUS!** That ought to be the way it is with **ANYBODY** and **EVERYBODY** that **JESUS** delivers from the **BONDAGE OF THEIR SIN!**

But note what **JESUS** told him: *“Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee.”*

When someone does something good for us, we often show our **GRATITUDE** by **telling others what they have done for us!**

GOD has done great things for **ALL** of us who are **SAVED!**

HE has **REDEEMED** us through the **BLOOD OF CHRIST** and **FORGIVEN** us of **ALL** our **SINS!** (Eph 1:3)

HE has **SAVED** our souls from **HELL** and given us **HIS LIFE— ETERNAL LIFE!**

HE has **GIVEN** us **HIS INDWELLING PRESENCE** in the **PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

JESUS is right now **SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD**, making intercession for us!

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We are **BLESSED WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST!** (Eph. 1:3)

One way we can **ALL** let our **GRATITUDE** show, is **BY TELLING OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US!** I’m talking about our **WITNESS!**

Psalm 107:2—“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;”

It is out of **GRATITUDE** that we should obey the **“GREAT COMMISSION”**. (Acts 1:8)

Mark 16:15—“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Was this man who **JESUS DELIVERED** obedient to **JESUS?** Yes he was! It says here, *“And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.”*

We who are **SAVED** know what **JESUS** has done for us!
We know that **THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN** is through **JESUS!**

So, if we are truly **GRATEFUL TO GOD**, and want others to join us in **HEAVEN**, then we should be **OBEDIENT TO JESUS** and **tell others what JESUS has done for us and what HE can do for them!**

Think about it...Who do you know that needs to hear the **GOOD NEWS** from you? It is only **GOOD NEWS** if they get it in time!

WE SHOULD LET OUR THANKSGIVING SHOW THROUGH OUR WORSHIP. . . OUR WITNESS. . .

Conclusion

Think back to when you first got **SAVED** if you are **SAVED**. Remember how your **HEART** overflowed then with **GRATITUDE** to the **LORD** for what he did for you? What happened to that? If that is not still there, get it back! And if you are **NOT SAVED**, the height of **INGRATITUDE** is to reject something someone went to great cost to provide for you!