

10 January 2023

How often do we thank God? Luke 17:11-19

If you were a leper, you MUST LIVE OUTSIDE the city, alone...you were banished and an outcast from society...your only company...other people who were infected with leprosy. Leviticus 13:44-46

National Guard, I would often attend meetings in Carville, Louisiana, now a Louisiana National Guard Post, Gillis Long Center on the MS River.

In 1894, and for many years after, people who were infected with leprosy were brought there by barge on the Mississippi River and dropped off.

Well into the 1990's, there were still a few patients left who chose to live out there days there. They had no families. I met some of them personally...

As leprosy in one's body made them an outcast from society, like these (10) lepers in Luke 17, our sins and the iniquities of our souls make us outcasts from God! Psalm 38:1-11, Ephesians 2:11-13

From what is written in the scriptures and from what we know about leprosy, we can understand WHY these (10) lepers cried out to the Lord Jesus "FROM AFAR OFF" ... they had no other hope..

This reminds me of a certain publican, who came to the temple to pray...but when prayed, he would not come near the altar, because he was keenly aware of his sins and his uncleanness before God! Luke 18:13.

We have no idea what it is like to be infected with leprosy and to be an outcast from society, even from your family, BUT THEN to be completely cleansed!

BUT WE, who are saved from our sins and the uncleanness of our souls DO KNOW, WE SHOULD KNOW what it is to be estranged and separated from God and outcasts from Him because of the sin of our souls! This is really what I wanted to get to this evening... THIS WAS A GREAT HEALING!

All (10) of them were cleansed, but ONLY ONE returned to give thanks to the Lord Jesus. ONE was keenly aware of the greatness of his cleansing and so ran back to thank this GREAT MAN who was not only his healer, but NOW He was his Lord and Saviour!

This man's life was dramatically changed, he was literally a new person! As sinners who were once AFAR OFF from God because of our sins, O that we would CONSISTENTLY be thankful to our God for our GREAT SALVATION! And that we would never be like the (9) lepers, who received great mercy from Christ, but who did not STOP and "turn back" and "return" to thank the Lord and glorify God for cleansing them!

How often does God show compassion to us, how often is merciful to us when we ask Him, (even when we don't ask Him), but then we don't take the time to thank Him?

I'm so glad God's goodness and grace and kindness and faithfulness towards us isn't dependent upon our thankfulness to Him... God still blesses us, speaks to us, and answers our prayers, He is gracious and merciful to us even after we behave like the (9), and not like the (1).

Luke 6:35, Psalm 34:1, 95:1-2, 100:4, 136:1-3, 145:1-2, Daniel 6:10, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 3:15,1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Next time you get aggravated with someone, one of your children for being unthankful, or for NOT thanking you for something that you did for them... ask yourself how thankful you are to your Father and God for all that He does for you each day.