

## ■ Luke 17:11-19 - "Rewards of Thankfulness"

*Key Thought/Action: Thanksgiving improves our relationships, our perspective, our actions, our worship, our accountability, and grows it through practice.*

### Welcome/Prayer:

### Review:

#### Review of Sabbatical

- Purpose - Rest/Renewal, Broadened horizons, increased perspective, Growth and opportunities for other leaders
  - Rest/Renewal
    - Continued to work at Friendship Community, blessing of timing, “slower” season, stronger team
    - Break from weekly and Sunday responsibilities
    - Several trips
      - Spruce Lake
      - Cabin work trip
      - Colorado 25th wedding anniversary (Kelly & I) (saved for 3 years)
      - Family beach trip (whole family for at least some of it, plus several friends)
    - Yes!
      - Definitely experienced rest & renewal
        - Missed our fellowship/relationships
        - Absence makes the heart grow fonder
        - Celebrations are important (25th)
  - Broadened horizons, increased perspective
    - Churches
      - 12 different churches, small - large, Mennonite - Non-Mennonite, some out of state
    - Yes!
      - Definitely experienced broadened horizons, increased perspective
        - More to come, along with thoughts from my ongoing study
        - Maybe more questions than answers
          - Commands vs Tradition - What is actually commanded in regards to church
  - Growth and opportunities for other leaders
    - Weekly responsibilities, funeral service, greater variety in those preaching
    - Hopefully in other ways that I didn't see
    - Yes!
      - Definitely experienced opportunities for other leaders
        - Hopefully, you experienced it also in other ways that I didn't see
  - Study
    - Purposefully not a priority, (as rest/renewal was #1) however ...
    - “Basic Church Course” - study alongside of We Are Church, the church planting network started by Francis Chan in 2013.
    - One Thousand Gifts book by Ann Voskamp

- So yes, it was definitely worth it for myself, and I believe for our church!

- Thank You!

- What's my plan to experience significant renewal?

Mark 6:31 New International Version (NIV)

31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

- Significant, different, planning, resources

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## Special Announcements:

Read Letter/Affirmation ballot for ordinations, prepared by J. Carl Sensenig, district bishop

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## Intro:

One Thousand Gifts book by Ann Voskamp

- Toast thrown in the face story, being changed by thankfulness and trying to live out thankfulness even in difficult situations

## Scripture:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:12-17 new life in Christ, one characteristic mentioned 3 times

Colossians 3:12-15 New International Version (NIV)

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

■ What character quality is mentioned most in Colossians 3:12-17?

Luke 17:11-19 New International Version (NIV)

## Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” 19 Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

- How have I been "cleansed", blessed by God? So, so many ways!
- Returning took time, it was an active choice. Choosing not to return and give praise was a choice as well. What gifts, what blessings, have I chosen to ignore to not go to Jesus, and thank Him for?
- Does Jesus expect thankfulness?
- Does thankfulness please Jesus?
- Does the one who thanked Jesus experience a more complete "wellness"?

## Example/Personal or Others:

Some years ago in Germany, a young man lay on an operating table. A skilled surgeon stood next to him and a group of his students were nearby. The surgeon said to the patient, “If you wish to say anything before we administer the anesthetic, now is your opportunity, for I must warn you that they will be the last words you will ever use in this world.” The young man understood, for his tongue was to be removed because of cancer. What words should he choose for such an occasion? After a long pause, he said, “Thank God for Jesus Christ!”

## Summary:

Thanksgiving improves our relationships, our perspective, our actions, our worship, our accountability, and grows it through practice.

## Challenge/Application:

1. Don’t abandon the practice of thanking God at meals.
2. Give thanks, aloud
  - a. 82% of praying adults most often pray silently and by themselves.
  - b. Could also be sharing with others at a mealtime, things you are thankful for today
3. Start an ongoing list/thankfulness journal
4. Thankful prompts from Christmas cards, church directory, phone contacts

## Prayer:

Song:

Benediction:

## Sharing Time:

Going Away Party for Winston Kulp Sunday, August 25 · 6:00 – 8:00pm

## Other Resources: