

MIRACLES OF JESUS

THANKFULNESS - LUKE 17:11-19

- A. Context - Jesus taught His disciples concerning responsibilities in Luke 17:1-10
1. On forgiveness (1-6)
 - a. A Christian is not to cause others to stumble.
 - b. A Christian is to forgive others.
 2. On faithfulness (7-10)
 - a. A Christian is to have faith which produces proper actions.
 - b. Proper actions are based on proper motivation.
 3. Luke 17:11-19 will focus on thankfulness which is proper response to God for all He does for us.
- B. Jesus was going to Jerusalem and passed between Samaria and Galilee (11), *On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee.*
1. He was teaching the disciples as they journeyed toward Jerusalem for His last Passover of His earthly life.
 2. This miracle will be a continuation of Jesus' time of teaching the disciples proper attitudes: forgiveness, faithfulness, and now, thankfulness.
- C. Ten lepers asked Jesus for a miracle (12-13), *And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance 13 and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."*
1. The lepers stood at a distance and called out to Jesus for help.
 - a. A leper could not live among family and friends but had to live by himself or with other lepers.
 - b. Jesus' compassion and healing of others must have drawn these outcasts to Him.
 2. They lepers asked for mercy.
 - a. They asked for mercy because they knew they were unworthy.
 - b. Jesus had already cleansed other lepers.
 - c. They wanted to be healed of leprosy which not only was destroying their bodies but any personal relationships they had.
- D. Jesus met their need (14), *When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed.*
1. He told them to go and present themselves to the priests.
 - a. When a person was healed, he was to go to the priest who would confirm his healing.
 - b. The healed leper would be restored to family and community since he was no longer contagious.
 - c. Jesus did not come to destroy the Law but to fulfill it.
 2. Jesus did not touch them or pronounce them clean.
 - a. They were healed when they obeyed Jesus by faith.
 - c. The lepers had originally addressed Jesus as *Master* and now their obedience brought physical healing.
 - d. William Taylor, *...as they were going on their way to do as He had bidden them, they discovered for themselves that they had been cured. The healthy color had returned to their flesh...and a consciousness of thorough physical regeneration was pulsing through their veins...for as they went they were cleansed.'*
- E. The Samaritan leper's response to his healing (15-16), *Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.*
1. The Samaritan leper alone turned back to Jesus.
 - a. Samaritans were considered half-breeds and despised by the Jews.
 - b. This Samaritan returned to Jesus and gave thanks.
 - c. He glorified God by praising God with a loud voice.
 - d. He glorified God by bowing down at Jesus' feet and thanking Him.
 - e. He would soon glorify God by receiving another gift from Jesus.

2. The nine Jewish lepers only got physical and social healing.
 - a. Obedience to the command of Jesus brought great blessing.
 - b. Lack of thankfulness would cost them the gift of eternity.

- F. Jesus' response to the Samaritan's thankfulness (17-19), *Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."*
 1. Jesus asked why only one of the ten returned to give praise to God.
 - a. The nine who did not give thanks were Jews.
 - b. They had more knowledge about Messiah but they did not see Who Jesus is.
 - c. This rejection of Jesus as Messiah was building to the point where Jews would demand that Jesus be executed.

 2. The one who did return was the Samaritan who told that His faith made him well.
 - a. *made well*, is probably best translated, *has saved you*.
 - b. By giving thanks, the Samaritan indicated a trust in the One who physically healed him.
 - c. This growing faith brought eternal life to the Samaritan.
 - d. The Gospel message is not limited to one nation but to those who place faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

 3. The importance of thanksgiving
 - a. Jesus expected a response of thanksgiving from the ten lepers.
 - 1) Psalm 107:22, *And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!*
 - 2) Psalm 116:17, *I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.*
 - 3) Charles Ryrie, *To say thank you is an easy thing, but it is not a little thing. True thanksgiving pleases our Lord.*

 - b. A lack of thanksgiving will characterize the church before the Lord returns
 - 1) 2 Timothy 3:2, *For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,*
 - 2) William Taylor, *...if gratitude from man to man is so rare, then we may conclude that gratitude from man to God is rarer still...much of it is owing to the prevalence of pride among men....it goes against the grain of our nature to acknowledge that we have no right or title to the favors which He has bestowed on us.*

 - c. Christians should be thankful people because we have forgiveness of sins, adoption into the family of God, and life everlasting in the presence of God,

2 Corinthians 9:15, *Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*

CONCLUSION

- A. Jesus can meet physical needs.
- B. He can meet our spiritual needs, as well.
- C. Thankfulness is a proper response to God for all He does for you and for me.