**THANKSGIVING …A THANKFUL LESSON FOR ALL TO LEARN**

# ***(Lk. 17:11-19). Luke 17:11-19 King James Version (KJV)***

***11And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.12And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:13And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.14And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.15And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,16And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.17And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?18There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.19And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.***

# ***1. There was a television show broadcast many years ago in which the emcee gave boxes of candy to the contestants. They didn't know it, but for everyone who said "thank you" there would be an extra $500. The emcee gave out seven boxes of candy before a girl said "thank you."***

2. The most important consideration is that we are all called on by God to be thankful !

The bible exhorts us…..

***Eph. 5:20, 20Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;***

***1 Thes. 5:18. 18In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

3. Charles Dickens said that we are mixed up in America. He suggested that instead of having one Thanksgiving Day each year we should have 364. Use that one day for complaining and griping. Use the other 364 to thank God each day for the many blessings He has showered upon you.

4. Someone wrote the following: "It is not life's circumstances that determine the quality of our lives but how we respond to them. This is why the Thanksgiving season is so indispensable for us all . . . it is a reminder of the gratitude we need, the sense of wonder and appreciation we must have, if life is to be full and alive.

5. I am not nearly so concerned with the season of Thanksgiving as I am with the practice of thanksgiving in our lives as Christians all year round. There is a certain perspective that comes from thanksgiving--not the holiday but the practice, that needs to be addressed.

**I. THANKSGIVING IMPROVES OUR PERSPECTIVE ABOUT OURSELVES**

A. When we say thank you, we are actually acknowledging, in effect, that we are not self-sufficient but we depend on God and Others to make it through in many of life’s needs. Just be Thankful!!

B. Giving thanks curbs our ego and brings us down to size. Some think themselves too big to say thank you when they are alleviated out of a tangled web. Just be Thankful!!

C. It is a reminder that while capable and responsible, we are really needy and dependent.

2. There is something extremely healthy that results from us making the words of Psalm 100 our very own.

***Psalms 100 1.Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.2Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.3Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.4Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.5For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.***

Our arrogance is addressed when we discipline ourselves to be thankful in all things. Genuine thanksgiving will improve our perspective about ourselves--by helping us keep ourselves in perspective. Someone said, "If we learn how to give ourselves, to forgive others, and to live with thanksgiving, we need not seek happiness--it will seek us."

**II. THANKSGIVING IMPROVES OUR PERSPECTIVE ABOUT OUR THINGS**

1. When we say thank you we are remembering that we did not get all we have by ourselves. We are not self-made people. No one is.
2. We are simply stewards ….

***1 Cor. 3:2 2Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.***

We have a lot to be Thankful for….each and everyday not just on Thanksgiving day!

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings each morning, All I can say is Thank you Lord, that I can hear and have the strength to rise. There are those who are deaf and bedfast.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, simply say, Thank you Lord, for my family. There are those who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in the ladies magazines, and the menu is at times unbalanced, we need to say Thank you Lord, for the food we have on our Table! There are many who are hungry and nothing to eat!

Even though the routine of my job is monotonous, Just say, Thank you Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no work !!

2. Second, having counted our blessings, expressing thanks for them helps to keep us from developing a desire for more and more, in which we become covetous instead of content.

To thank the Lord for all we have is to remember the rich and rare blessings that we enjoy-- the things money cannot buy

***(Lk. 12:15). 5And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.***

**III. THANKSGIVING IMPROVES OUR PERSPECTIVE ABOUT OUR GOD**

A. When we give thanks for what we have, we are forced to think about God the great giver of the greatest ***gifts (Jas. 1:17). 17Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***

B. Scripture lays out for us what God has done and reminds us to be thankful for it

***(Col. 1:12, 2Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:***

***Rom. 6:17-18, 17But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.***

***1 Cor. 15:57, 57But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

***2 Cor. 9:15). 15Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift***.

1. Our anxiety is addressed by giving thanks. When we thank God for all He has done and given to us, we focus our attention on His grace and power

 ***Phil. 4:6. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.***

**Conclusion**

The word 'thank' and the word 'think' are from the same root word, and this is no accident. The two words have much in common. Thankfulness grows out of thoughtfulness. Our focus on giving thanks should cause each of us of think carefully about all God has done for us, and doesn't that move you to come to Him?