

FINDING JOY THROUGH GIVING THANKS

Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy – Luke 17:11-19

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^[a] 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.”

Jesus cleaned ten lepers, but only one was made well. Jesus said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” But hadn’t Jesus already healed him? What did Jesus mean?

Jesus meant that he was saved in the true sense of the word – true wellness, complete wholeness, living life to the full. Thanksgiving is necessary to live the well, whole, fullest life.

Philippians 4:11-12 MSG - *Actually, I don’t have a sense of needing anything personally. I’ve learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I’m just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I’ve found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.*

- Can we learn to be thankful – with hands full or empty? How do you feel that is for you?
- When we give thanks for even the smallest thing, one specific small thing at a time, we will find joy.
- Have you experienced joy in this way? Describe your experiences.