

THE THANKLESS NINE

Luke 17: 11 - 19

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus went to Jerusalem and passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee; as He entered into a certain village there met him THE MEN that were LEPERS -- Luke 17: 11 - 12.
2. Nine of them were Jews, and the other was of the Samaritan race -- Luke 17: 16
3. Let us now study the text and draw some lessons:

I. THE TEN MEN

1. They had the horrible disease of Leprosy.
 - (1) Victims of this horrible disease would lose their hair and eyebrows; their nails would loosen, decay and fall off; joint after joint of their toes and fingers would drop off; the gums and teeth would be absorbed. The nose, the eyes, and tongue would slowly be consumed. Many times whole sections of the body would disappear.
 - (2) This disease brought them to a common level, causing them to forget racial hatred -- John 4:9
 1. Sin reduces all men to a common level before God -- Rom. 3:23; I John 1:8.
 - (3) Leprosy made them unclean -- Lev. 13:45.
 1. Sin makes all men unclean in the eyes of the Lord -- Rev. 21: 27; James 1:27.
 - (4) Leprosy isolated them from society -- Lev. 13: 45 - 46.
 1. Sin isolates one from God -- Isa. 59: 1- 2.
 2. Sin isolates one from the best society, God's people -- Psa. 1:5.
 - (5) It filled them with despair.
 1. There was no human remedy for the disease.
 2. There is no human remedy for SIN -- Jer. 10:23.
2. They cried for mercy -- Luke 17:13.
 - (1) This was an expression of faith.
 - (2) Afflictions often cause people to turn to God.
 - (3) In time of health and prosperity, many forget God.
3. They received Mercy -- Luke 17:14.
 - (1) They were not healed before obedience.
 - (2) They were healed in the ACT OF OBEDIENCE.
 - (3) We are not saved by faith only -- James 2:24.
 - (4) We are saved when our faith obeys -- Heb. 5:9.

II. "ONE OF THEM" WAS GRATEFUL.

1. Luke 17: 15 - 16
2. Ingratitude is common.
3. Ingratitude is one of the most universal and deeply seated of all the human failings.
4. You may go out of your way to do a man a kindness, and when you look for his response you are disappointed.
5. Paul experienced ingratitude -- 2 Cor. 12:15.
6. The Samaritan was under-privileged.
 - (1) Gratitude comes, most of the time, from people you least expect it from.

III. THE NINE -- Luke 17:17

1. They were ungrateful.
 - (1) They were nearer the Lord in their affliction than they were in health.
 - (2) They asked for mercy when in distress.
 - (3) They were silent when thanks should have been given.
 - (4) This reminds us of God's people in the days of Isaiah -- Isa. 1: 2 - 4; 5: 1 - 3.
2. They were Jews; privileged men -- Rom. 3:1 - 2.
 - (1) Blessings constantly received often ceases to be appreciated.

CONCLUSION

1. Let us learn:
 - (1) From the ten -- that all need cleansing -- Rom. 3: 23.
 - (2) From the stranger -- the duty and beauty of GRATITUDE.
 - (3) From the nine -- that ingratitude is a very ugly sin.
 - (4) That the Christian has an obligation to give thanks to God:
 1. The obligation of the creature to the Creator.
 2. The obligation to give thanks because of the redemption of our souls.
 3. For His providential care -- Matt. 6:24.

Preached at Underwood Hts. 1981