

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – November 26, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of the Last Days Topic: Being Thankful in all Situations

Main Texts: Luke 17:11-19

Key verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – *“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: In today’s study, Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when He chose to go through the border between Galilee and Samaria so that He could stop in a nondescript village and encounter the ten lepers. This is reminiscent of His encounter with the woman at the well in the Samaritan village of Sychar. Jesus was on His way to Galilee and took the path that would lead Him to the field where Jacob’s well was and where He would meet the Samaritan woman (John 4:3-8). These seemingly “chance” encounters demonstrate Jesus’ desire to meet with us and to develop a relationship with us that will transform our lives forever. The ten lepers, recognizing their uncleanness under the Old Testament Laws concerning leprosy (Leviticus 13 & 14), chose to stand afar off from Jesus and cry out loudly to Him for mercy. And Jesus, in His usual manner, was merciful to respond to their cry.

1.(a) The ten lepers’ cry to Jesus was for mercy. Let participants discuss mercy as the foundation for our asking from God. (Read Luke 17:13; Mark 10:46-47). (b) In response to their plea, Jesus didn’t question them or ask them to do anything other than to go and show themselves to the priest. Let participants discuss what Jesus’ response communicates in how we should view God’s blessings in our lives. (c) If mercy is the foundation of what we ask and receive from God, what should be the appropriate response of recipients of such mercy?

When Jesus saw the ten lepers, He simply gave them a command, “go and show yourself to the priest”, and by faith, they went on their way to the priest. As they went, they were healed. Even though they knew that they had received their healing, the law required that they be ascertained and declared clean by a priest. This process of being declared clean by a priest could take seven to fourteen days. Despite the process not having taken place, one of the lepers on realizing that he had been healed, returned to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice. Developing a heart of gratitude is essential in the life of a Christian. The Psalmist says in Psalms 107:1, *“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever”*. Thankfulness is an act of worship and should be prompt and wholehearted. We need to be grateful in all things because everything we are and have are all by the mercies of God. Plus, it is His will for us (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

2.(a) Read Luke 17:15 (KJV). What actions of the one who gave thanks do you admire? (b) What does the action of the other nine say about what was going on in their minds? (c) What principles can we draw from this concerning thankfulness?

The one leper who fell at Jesus’ feet thanking God for his healing, demonstrated faith in Jesus, recognizing His blessing upon his life. He did not need to wait until he got a certificate of discharge or cleanness from the priest. Immediately he realized that he had been healed, he rushed back to give thanks, his background and ethnicity notwithstanding. To Jesus, it was not only this gesture that stunned Him, but the fact that out of ten persons, only the Samaritan returned to give thanks; A supposed an outsider to the covenant. This unlocked a greater reward for him than what all the others received... the gift of salvation. God is pleased when we worship Him in our expression of thanks to Him. We must therefore make thankfulness a thing that we do in every circumstance.

3.(a) Consider Jesus’ response to the one who returned to give thanks. What does that tell you about God’s heart? (b) What else did the one who gave thanks get which the others did not get? What difference did it make in his life compared to the nine? (c) Let participants share one practical step they will start taking as a result of this study.

Prayer: *Father, I am grateful and thankful for all the things You have done in my life. Give me the grace to live a life of thankfulness for everything and in every situation, in Jesus Name, Amen.*