

GENUINE FAITH – 10
NOVEMBER 18, 2018

LUKE 17:11-19 (NLT)

1. Genuine faith got these lepers healed. Faith was seen in their going to Jesus and obeying His command to show themselves to the priests while the evidence of leprosy was still in their bodies.
 - A. Genuine faith acts before things change, not after. If one would've refused to go until he saw change, he would not have been healed.

2. Being thankful and giving thanks are not the same.
 - A. Being thankful is an inward emotional feeling. Giving thanks, involves outward expressions or actions.
 - B. Children are taught to say "thank you" at an early age. Eventually, they're taught to send thank you cards and express thanks in different ways.

3. All ten were thankful, but only one gave thanks.
 - A. The nine: Lepers were challenged spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally.
 - Spiritually – Considered rejected by God. **NUMBERS 12:7-12**
 - Physically – "Her face was hideous, her nose and ears were gone, her lips were eaten and hands were fingerless," said a pastor from North Carolina while on a short mission's trip in the Philippines.
 - Socially – Outcasts, alienated from society, living in caves or tents outside the city. They wore bells around their necks.
 - Emotionally – Distraught, unhappy, sad, feelings of gloom and despair.
 - Thankful? – Imagine the dialogue as they went. "Look Bob, my hands are whole again!" "Forget your hands Joe, you have a new face!" "So do you Bob!" "We have our lives back!" Who wouldn't be thankful?
 - B. The one. Jesus asks three questions. "Were not ten healed?" "Where are the nine?" "Does only a foreigner return to give thanks glory) to God?" Jesus wasn't happy!
 - According to Jesus, giving thanks is an expression that gives glory to the gift giver. As Christians, we've been given the greatest gifts ever. **JAMES 1:17** Being thankful is great, but giving thanks with expressions of worship and service is far greater. **HEBREWS 13:15**

4. God takes giving thanks seriously. Not giving thanks robs Him of His glory. Exhibit:
 - A. **ROMANS 1:20-25 (ESV)** – Not recognizing God as Creator and giving Him thanks, led to human depravity.
 - B. **EPHESIANS 5:1-5 (GW)** – Not giving thanks can lead to immorality. It's hard to be immoral while thanking God for your spouse and who He's made us in Christ.
 - C. **EPHESIANS 5:17-20** – Giving thanks plays a big part in being filled with and controlled by the Spirit.
 - D. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18** – Giving thanks is the highest expression of our faith.
 - E. **COLOSSIANS 1:12-14** – We thank God for our inheritance, our deliverance and redemption.

CONCLUSION:

Giving thanks to God is an expression that gives Him the glory He deserves for being our creator, life giver and law maker. We give thanks verbally and through acts of service. Not doing so robs Him of the glory He rightfully deserves.