

November 26, 2023  
*An Attitude of Gratitude*  
**Holiday Series**

Text: Selected Scripture

*Introduction:* Show Video – Gratitude

Created by Shift Worship, through Playback Media, VA

*Gratitude...not because of a memory of what has been, nor  
because of a hope of what might be...*

*Is not dependent on circumstances...*

*Gratitude is an act of the will where we place ourselves completely  
in His will no matter what happens...*

*In gratitude we give thanks for the good things God has given and  
the good things He has taken away...*

*In gratitude we give thanks to God, not because things are good  
but because He is good.*

Thanksgiving celebrations in America began some 400 years ago when the Mayflower pilgrims celebrated their first harvest in the New Land with a group of Native Americans. Subsequent days of thanksgiving were observed during the days of our national revolution. Abraham Lincoln declared a day of thanksgiving in November during the Civil War which was then solidified in the days of Franklin Roosevelt during the days of the Great Depression.

As His Church, we know that thankfulness and gratitude should be marks of our lives as His children and should be expressed every day by the lives that we live. Consider with me what that might look like in today's world.

*An Attitude of Gratitude*

I. In Exceptional Circumstances. **Luke 17:11-19**

A. A Cry from the Hopeless.

*Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!*

Lepers – still some question what ancient leprosy was.

Skin infection/disease; some believe it to be Hansen's Disease (discovered in 1873) which is a disease affecting

the skin, nerves, eyes, and the lining of the nose.  
God gave strict guidelines to His people when dealing with it.  
Leviticus 13 ~ had to wear torn clothes, have hair hang loose, cover one's upper lip, and cry out, "unclean, unclean!" Was required to live outside the camp unless healed.

Only contact with a dead body was a more serious contamination.

Restricted to six feet from others/150 feet if the wind was blowing.

While traveling the border between Galilee and Samaria on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus encountered a group of ten lepers. Acknowledged Him as "Master" ~ Used elsewhere only by the disciples; declaring His authority or position.

Asked for mercy ~ to be recognized again as a person and shown compassion in some way; may not have been any expectation of healing from this dreadful disease and separation.

B. A Command from the Healer.

*Go, show yourselves to the priests.*

As prescribed in the Law – Leviticus 14 (Shaving, bathing, sacrifice.)

As the lepers traveled to see the priest, they were at some instant healed of their disease – they visibly could see their restored skin.

Remember, they could not rejoin society without the priest's declaration.

C. A Confession from the Healed.

*He glorified God loudly, fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks.*

With extreme humility this leper returned to Jesus; having experienced the supernatural healing touch of God, he humbly thanked Jesus.

Luke noted that the healed leper was a Samaritan.

Could be implying the others were Jews, but we can't know that for sure.

Being a Samaritan would have meant a second form of being an outcast in the Jewish culture.

Could the Jews have been ignoring their Messiah?

John the Baptist – *tell him...the lepers are cleansed...*

What a fabulous example of gratitude in exceptional circumstances

*What would the first thing you would do if...?*

## II. In Everyday Situations.

Matthew Henry, the famous Bible commentator, was robbed of his wallet once. He wrote in his diary that night all the things he was thankful for:

- That he had never been robbed before.
- That though they took his wallet, they did not take his life.
- Even though they took it all, it wasn't very much.
- That he was the one who was robbed and not the one who did the robbing.

If we go back to the Bible's original language, the Greek word that is translated as *gratitude* refers to the quality of showing appreciation and returning kindness. This is in contrast to how Merriam-Webster defines *gratitude*, which is more of thankfulness for a personal benefit, such as being *thankful* for something that happened to you.

Biblical gratitude is an approach to doing something, sustenance that strengthens you; an intention behind your actions.

Gratitude is a positive response to experiencing God's goodness and grace. In other words, once you realize that God is working in your life, you'll show gratefulness in how you live.

### A. An Attitude for All Times and Situations

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Colossians 3:16-17**

### B. An Attitude of Total Contrast with the Ungodly.

**Romans 1:18-21; 2 Timothy 3:1-2**

### C. An Attitude that Brings about Maturity. **James 1:2-4**

**Romans 8:28**

### D. An Attitude that Proves One's Salvation. **Psalms 107:1-2**

**So What?**     *How is your gratitude attitude these days?*

An account of ten condemned men brought from death to life.

Isn't that what has happened in our lives spiritually?

How often do you run to Jesus and worship at His feet with a grateful heart?

*Go, show yourselves to the priests...as they went, they were cleansed.*

*Go and make disciples...* will spiritual healing take place even as we are obedient?

Questions to Ponder Through the Week  
*An Attitude of Gratitude*  
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1. Having experienced Thanksgiving 2023, has your attitude of gratitude been impacted in any positive ways? In what ways have you been encouraged to notice or look for things to be grateful for? How can you incorporate this into your prayer life?

2. Read Luke 17:11-19 again. How hopeless would one's life have been if plagued by a disease like leprosy? Are there people in our society and culture who might have similar feelings of desperation? Contemplate ways you could reach out to these people.

3. Think about the Samaritan leper who returned to thanks and worship Jesus. Describe the scene as recorded in verses 15-16. Has your gratitude ever been expressed in similar ways? Why or why not? Why do you think he chose to glorify God loudly and prostrate himself before the Lord?

4. When has it been the most difficult for you to be grateful to God in your life? Are there biblical grounds for you to justify your ingratitude? What might you do to improve in this area? Some people call this making an attitude adjustment. List those times that are challenging and what you will do next time they confront you.

5. Think about your life ~ list those times when you feel you matured the most. Were these times easy ones or more difficult times for you? Why do you think you grew most during these times? How might you share what you learned through these times with other people? Do you think you could be an encouragement to them?

Sermon Topic for December 3:

*Angelic Appearances and Assignments*    Selected Scripture  
Angels appear at various times throughout the Christmas accounts in Scripture. What or who are angels? Do all angels have a name? Why do they exist? In what ways do they minister to God and mankind? Record what you confidently know about angels and see if your list grows over the next few Sundays.