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# FOLLOWERS

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November 16, 2014  
Celebration | 8:45 am  
Pastor Dave Mitchell

## The Thankful Leper Luke 17:11-22

Developing a Thankful Attitude as Followers of Christ

**Be a hopeful follower: Jesus hears us and can provide grace and healing for our needs. Luke 17:11-13**

- Psalms 3 and 4

**Be a trusting follower: Jesus offers compassion and mercy based on even the smallest expressions of faith. Luke 17:14, also Luke 17:6**

*"When He saw them, He said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they were going, they were cleansed."*

**Be a thankful follower: Turn to Christ regardless of your need and circumstance.**

- A follower that *"turned back"* to Christ regardless of your problems. Luke 7:15, 17-18  
*"turn back"* = Matthew 18:3, Acts 3:19  
*"Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back... And he was a Samaritan."*  
A non-follower ignores Christ unless he needs help.
- A follower whose heart is broken in open selfless worship and glorification of Christ. Luke 7:15  
*"...glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him."*  
A non-follower feels no need to turn from his own life and schedule to thank Christ.
- A follower that seeks Christ and experiences healing for his deepest spiritual needs. Luke 17:17-19  
*"And He said to him, 'Stand up and go; your faith has made you well.' "*  
A non-follower is only interested in his/her superficial felt needs.

**Be a faithful follower prepared for Christ's return. Luke 17:20-37**

- A non-follower allows questions about God to blind them to the presence of Christ. Luke 17:20-21  
*"...For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." Luke 17:21*

## Digging Deeper:

Jesus is moving toward His entry into Jerusalem on what we call 'Palm Sunday,' which is followed by His crucifixion to offer us forgiveness of sin. As He travels, He encounters 10 lepers. They called to Him from a distance because of this disease. You can read about the regulations regarding leprosy in Leviticus 13:45-46. That disease was feared as we might fear the Ebola virus today. The follower we focus on in this chapter is the one Samaritan leper that returned to give thanks to Christ for his healing while the other nine continued on their own way. It is a remarkable story because this one thankful man was an outcast in that society due to his disease and being a Samaritan man. The Samaritans were not accepted by the Jewish people because they are half Jew and have Gentile which occurred when their Jewish ancestors intermarried with the Assyrians and other foreign nations.

From this passage, we learn the importance of turning to Christ with a thankful attitude for all He has done for us. Also, we observe that only a minority of people will truly turn to Christ in appreciation of His grace and mercy as He helps with our needs.

## LifeGroup Discussion:

- What reasons do you have for giving thanks to Christ? What has He done for you?
- What reasons do you use for not giving thanks to Christ? What are you still waiting for from Him?
- Read Luke 17:14. What did Christ instruct the lepers to do? When were they healed? What does this reveal about their faith?
- Read Luke 17:6. How much faith do you need to see Christ do great things? How should that make you give thanks to Christ?
- As you read this entire chapter, observe the importance of faith in living a thankful life. Here is one view of this chapter to put the story of the lepers in context:
  - The size of our faith needed to experience God's power – a mustard seed. Luke 17:6  
Why does this make you thankful?
  - The object/person of our faith to experience God's power of healing—Jesus. Luke 17:11-19  
Who should you thank?
  - The importance of our faith is to be prepared for God's future power. Luke 17:20-37  
If you are prepared for Christ's return, why does that make you thankful in light of the end times?
- One key verse in this story of the lepers is Luke 17:15. Read it and find the words "turned back." These words may reflect more than just his physical direction. The root word in the Greek can mean a spiritual conversion from a repentant heart. Possibly this one thankful leper turned back spiritually from his sins in thankfulness. You see this word used as spiritually turning to Christ in repentance in Matthew 18:3 and Acts 3:19. Have you turned back to Christ from your sins so you can have a thankful heart in all He has done for you?

## Next Steps:

1. **Attend the Thanksgiving Day service** on Thursday, November 27 at 10:00 am in Samsvick Chapel to express your thanks to God in worship on this special day. For more info, visit [calvarylife.org/thanksgiving](http://calvarylife.org/thanksgiving)
2. If you would like to be baptized as a believer in Jesus, join the Baptism Class. Baptism Classes are next Sunday, November 23 at 8:45 am + 10:45 am in the Prayer Room (located in the Worship Center). Baptisms will be during the Thanksgiving One Service Sunday on November 30. This is a great way to express your thanks to Christ as you obey His command to be baptized. Find out more at [calvarylife.org/baptism](http://calvarylife.org/baptism)
3. Attend one of the upcoming LifeLabs to learn how to be committed to a loving community and find ways to serve our Lord. Upcoming LifeLab opportunities are:
  - **Core LifeLab 101: How to Connect** – Sunday, November 16 at 12:15 – 3:45 pm in Fireside. Lunch is provided. To learn more about Calvary and how to become a member of Calvary Church, we offer this LifeLab where you can learn about our Beliefs, Purpose, History, Ministries and more. This is the first part of our Connect, Grow, Reach series.
  - **Core LifeLab 301: How to Reach** – Sunday, November 16 at 12:15 – 3:45 pm. Meet in Fireside for lunch, then the class will be held in room W-209 (upstairs Worship Center). During this afternoon, you'll learn more about our church, discover your unique God-given spiritual gifts, and be provided with opportunities at Calvary and in the community which will allow you to use these gifts. Be equipped with how to serve and how to share your faith.

To learn more about LifeLabs, visit [calvarylife.org/lifelabs](http://calvarylife.org/lifelabs)



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