

Praise and Thanksgiving

By Pastor Nick Bibile

The text that I am going to preach today is from Luke 17:11-19.

Luke 17:11 On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. 12 And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance 13 and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." 14 When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

There are many that pray everyday but how many are praising God and giving thanksgiving to God everyday. Here in the United States we had our Thanksgiving Day last week, it is certainly one of the biggest holidays. Thanksgiving holiday has become a worldly holiday as it is centered on the turkey, ham and other foods, giving thanks to nobody. This nation is speeding towards hell as they forget to give praises and thanks to the Creator God who gives us air to breath, rain and sunshine for our crops, he has provided jobs and shelter. His love is unconditional, and he is a fountain of grace abounding in mercy for undeserved sinners like us, oh! How we need to thank him!

**1 Chron 16:25 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and he is to be held in awe above all gods.**

Here we see in our text ten lepers were healed but only one was seized with sudden impulse to return back and give praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. It shows that only ten to one would praise. Many are blessed with abundance of mercies yet give a cold and a dry praises to God.

Verse 13 and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

If you read in the text all ten lepers prayed to the Lord. In the same way there are many who would pray to the Lord, specially when they are in sickness and danger, when the Lord answers their prayers they forget to praise God or their praises grow sick unto death, their praises are cold, dry and it is not from the bottom of their heart without any intensity.

Which is more important? Prayer or Praise? Prayer is for time. We pray only when we are here on this earth, we don't pray in heaven. But praise is for eternity, we would be praising God in heaven for eternity therefore praise deserve the highest place. All ten believed yet only one believed and came back to praise Christ for the mercy he had received.

Verse 14 When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed.

Many obey the ritual than praising Christ. Many attend church as a ritual, the external form of worship. Many would sing hymns and songs as a ritual, pray and read the Bible as a ritual and not from the bottom of their hearts, yet how little would praise God. Not the external praise but internally from their hearts, lying at his feet and praising him, singing our souls in gratitude for him. Nine obeyed the rituals but only one truly praised God. Remember there are no rituals in heaven.

There are more pray than praise, more obey the ritual than praise, more receive God's benefits yet no praise to God. You can sin in company and go to hell in company but when you receive salvation you come to Jesus alone. How many would be delighted to sing a solo song of praise and thankfulness of their salvation and pouring out your soul to the Lord.

The true born again Christians are given a heart from heaven to love God who is in heaven. The heart that is from the earth will be indulged earthly desires but the heart that is from heaven will be indulged of heavenly desires and will express heavenly longings.

We all pay taxes to the government as the government have built roads and other things for us and we give revenue to the government. But what about revenue of thanks to God for all the things that he has given us according to his abundance of mercy? God's treasury in heaven would overflow if the revenue of thanks were paid.

Carnal mind takes the ritualistic approach by going to the high priest was their duty, but one of the healed went to Jesus, the spiritual overrode the ceremonial.

Verse 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice.

There are times we give praises a loud in our hearts and sometimes we give praises loud with our hearts and mouths, because you simply cannot whisper your praise to the Lord. Here we see the intensity of the healed lepers praise.

When you are saved from hell to heaven you cannot whisper in praise to God. This man with a loud voice not ashamed boldly glorified God. Let the heaven and earth hear your praises to the Lord, May you have a burning glow and a fire in your heart.

Verse 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

True praise is always accompanied with humility. There are many who would praise God with but there is no humility. Praise is not a show but done in faithfulness and honesty. True faithfulness lies low before the Lord saying "I am nobody in the sight of his glorious majesty." Worship is meaningful when we fall at his feet.

We need to be occupied with our personal devotion. Here we see Jesus speaking "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" The man did not reply to Jesus saying, "Oh, they did not care to come Lord." But he was intensely occupied his personal adoration of the Lord at his feet worshipping him. When you see the glory and the beauty of the Lord at his feet you are occupied with true worship, loving the Lord with all your heart and soul.

There is a great blessedness in giving praise and thankfulness. This man was healed and blessed but the others were not blessed by the Lord. I love my wife, I love my children, my parents, I love the doctrines of grace, I love the Sabbaths/Lord's Days, but I love Jesus the most.

C.H. Spurgeon said, "My heart will never rest until I glorify God personally and give thanks unto Christ personally."

When you eat something really good you will ask you made this food it's really good and you praise the cook. But spiritual food is more important than physical food. When we taste the sweetness of Christ how we need to praise him and be indulge in him.

Prayers and praises go together side by side. The leper prayed first to the Lord and then he came and gave praises to the Lord. They go side by side, like rowing a boat on one side you row the boat with prayers and the other side you row with praises.

Then you go into the deep waters of Christ as he becomes more precious to you.

The greatest sinners when they are saved become the greatest praises. Remember the sinful woman who poured the alabaster flask of expensive ointment on Jesus head and the tearful praises of repentance and praises overflowed. We see Apostle Paul one of the greatest sinners became one of the greatest praises. When you realize what a wretched sinner and how deeply you have sinned against God yet God in his mercy saved you from the pit of hell to heaven and it makes our woeful hearts to sing praises to the Lord.

Yes, you craved the earthly joy before and now you are saved you need to crave for heavenly joy. You listened to earthly songs of sang earthly songs from your flesh giving adoration to the so called stars of this earth, you got excited in watching basket ball games, baseball games and gave adoration for those excelled in sports but now you are saved where is your adoration, praise and thanksgiving to the Lord? The Psalmist said, **He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. (Ps 40:3)**

Did he put a new song in your mouth and praise to God?

Heaven is a place of praise to God, the angels praise him daily. If we cannot praise God here on earth you cannot praise him in heaven. Look at the nature, the heavens declare his glory, the sun, the moon and the stars praise him daily. The birds in the morning praise him with their songs and we who are saved should praise him more with thankfulness. We are not going to praise our Savior not only on this earth but forever. Don't feel shy to say, Amen and Hallelujah as we will be praise him with these words in heaven.

One thing that the enemy Satan hates is giving praises to the Lord, it is one thing that he cannot stand, and he will flee from you. See 2 Chronicles 20

2 Chronicles 20:18 Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. 19 And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed." 21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to

sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say,

**“Give thanks to the Lord,
for his steadfast love endures forever.”**

22 And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. 23 For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

Adore him, love him, worship him as Jesus takes the highest station, let your soul sing with triumphant praises for the rest of your lives.

If your soul is satisfied with the richness of God’s word praise him.

**Ps 63:5 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.**

www.sounddoctrine.net