

## **"GIVE HIM THANKS"**

**Luke 17:15-16** - *And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup> and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.*



*I remember the two phrases that my mother taught me at a very young age. They were "Please" and "Thank You". She constantly reminded me that whenever anyone did anything for me that I was to always say "Thank You!" She took the time to explain to me that people do not have to do anything for me and if they were kind enough to do something, I owed them a "Thank You." And that also included what she and my father did for me as well. Yes, my parents were legally and morally responsible for the children they brought into this world up to the age of 18. Yes, it was their responsibility to feed, clothe and shelter all of us. But that didn't mean they did not deserve a "Thank You" for whatever they were able to do for us! With that deeply ingrained into my very being, I freely passed that principle on to my two children whom God blessed me to bring into this world. I took it a step further and before I let anything loose into their hands and they walked away, I held on to it tightly until they said "Thank You". Then I gave it to them and let them take it away and enjoy it!*

*Let me call your attention to a very familiar passage of scripture which talks about 10 Lepers found in the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to Luke. In this passage Jesus passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee and entered a certain village, and there he was met by 10 Lepers who lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" He sent them away to show themselves to the priests and as they went, they were cleansed. Notice if you will there were initially 10 Lepers who cried out for Jesus but only 1 Leper returned to give Him thanks! Jesus inquired about the others and blessed the 1 leper even the more because he came back and gave Him thanks. Think about your life and how many times you have cried out to Jesus to have mercy on you and He did! How many times did you return to give Him thanks? Can you be counted among the 9 Lepers who received their healing and went about their way ungrateful and unappreciative or can you be counted with the 1 Leper who returned and gave Him thanks and was blessed even the more?*

*I often reminded my children, even now at 29 and 27 years of age, that I don't mind doing whatever I do for them and can do for them as God blesses me, but how much more enjoyable and gratifying it is to me when I've sacrificed to meet a need or provide a desire and they in turn stop and give me thanks! So if you and I, being earthly parents give good gifts to our children and expect them to give us thanks, how much more does our Heavenly Father grieve when He provides our needs and throws in some of the desires of our heart and we take it and walk away without giving Him thanks! Do not be found guilty of being ungrateful or unappreciative!*

*So, as we enter into the month of November and we stop and take time to enjoy great food, good friends, and gather with our families during the season of Thanksgiving, it should also be a time when each and every one of us reflect on our life and all the wonderful blessings that God has provided for us daily that we seem to have taken for granted throughout the year. I encourage you on today, stop and think about every trial He's seen you through and give Him thanks! Stop and think about every need He has met in your life and give Him thanks! Stop and think about every open door He presented to you and give Him thanks! Stop and think about every way He made for you when you couldn't see one for yourself and give Him thanks! Stop and think about every valley and desert place He brought you through and give Him thanks! Stop and think about His unfailing grace, His ever renewed mercies and His unwarranted favor that rests over your life and give Him thanks! Stop and think about how He healed your body when the doctors said there was nothing else they could do and give Him thanks! Stop and think about every person who counted you out because of your past, but God called you out because of your purpose and the plan He has for your future and expected end and give Him some thanks!*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Whether it is good or bad, happy or sad, positive or negative, painful or pleasant, always give Him thanks!*