Gratitude in the Gospels: Lessons from the Ten Lepers



Explore the spiritual dangers of ingratitude through the story of the Ten Lepers in Luke 17:11–19 and learn to cultivate a thankful heart.





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Introduction

The Gospels present many vivid stories of Jesus' teachings, miracles, and encounters with individuals that carry profound spiritual lessons. Among these narratives is the story of *the ten lepers* found in Luke 17:11—19, a passage that highlights the dangers of ingratitude even in the face of incredible blessings.

Jesus, traveling between Samaria and Galilee, encounters ten men afflicted with leprosy—a disease that isolated them from society, both physically and socially. Upon hearing Jesus' command to show themselves to the priests—a step for being declared clean—these men were healed yet only one returned to give thanks. This singular act of gratitude stands in stark contrast to the ingratitude shown by the other nine. This story challenges believers to consider how often they might receive blessings yet forget to acknowledge God's hand in their lives.

Ingratitude is more than a social faux pas; it is a spiritual danger. When we neglect to thank God, we risk becoming complacent, missing the deeper relationship He desires to cultivate with us. By studying this passage and the surrounding teachings in the Gospels, we can better understand God's heart for gratitude, the blessings He generously gives, and our call to live lives marked by thankful obedience.

Throughout this seven-day study, we will explore key themes from the cleansing of the ten lepers, examining Jesus' compassionate healing, the







response of those healed, and the implications for our own spiritual walk. We invite you to reflect deeply, engage prayerfully, and allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate a renewed spirit of gratitude in your heart. May this study transform the way you receive God's blessings and live out thankfulness daily.















Your Verse

Luke 17:11—14 – 'Jesus healed ten lepers, saying, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they went, they were cleansed.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 9:22 'Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you."'
- Hebrews 11:1 'Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.'







Devotional: Faith's Role in Receiving God's Healing

Faith is the foundation of the miraculous in our lives. In Luke 17:11—14, the ten lepers demonstrated faith when they obeyed Jesus' command to show themselves to the priests, even before seeing evidence of healing. This act of faith, trusting in Jesus' word, was essential for their cleansing to take effect.

Sometimes, God calls us to step out in faith before we experience the full manifestation of His promises. The lepers' journey can inspire us to trust God's instructions even when circumstances seem uncertain or impossible. Healing, restoration, and breakthroughs often depend on stepping forward in obedience and belief.

As you reflect on your own life, consider areas where faith must take the lead. How might God be inviting you to act on His word, even if the outcome isn't yet visible? Faith bridges the gap between divine promise and reality, opening the door for God's power to work creatively and profoundly.







Reflect and Apply

	In what areas of your life are you being called to act in faith as the lepers did?
2.	How does faith influence your ability to receive God's blessings?
	What does obedience look like when you trust God but don't yet see results?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time when acting in faith led to a blessing in your life.
2.	Identify any doubts you have about trusting God fully and journal prayers to overcome them.
3.	Reflect on ways you can practice obedience to God's word this week.







Prayer for Today

Lord, increase my faith. Help me trust Your promises and obey Your guidance, even when I cannot yet see the outcome. Teach me to rely fully on You, remembering that Your power is made perfect in my obedience. May I walk daily in confident faith, ready to receive Your healing and restoration. *Thank You for Your love and faithfulness.* Amen.

















Your Verse

Luke 17:15 — 'One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 30:2 'Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.'
- Exodus 15:26 'For I am the Lord who heals you.'







Devotional: Recognizing and Praising God's Healing

Physical healing is a visible sign of God's miraculous intervention, but it often points to a deeper spiritual restoration. In the story of the ten lepers, their outward cleansing was undeniable and instant. Yet, what truly stands out is the response of the one who returned to thank God.

Recognizing the miracle is essential. It is easy to take blessings for granted, yet the leper's decision to praise God aloud reveals a heart that is truly aware and grateful. This man's return shows that healing—whether physical, emotional, or spiritual—requires more than receiving; it calls for acknowledgment and worship.

As we consider Jesus' healing power, we are reminded that every blessing originates from Him. Our response should be gratitude that nurtures a closer relationship with God. This healing story invites us to celebrate, worship, and honor the One who makes us whole.







Reflect and Apply

1. Ho	ow do you typically respond to blessings or answered prayers?
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2. Ar	re there areas where you might take God's provision for granted?
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	what ways can praising God deepen your awareness of His work in ur life?
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Journaling Prompts

1.	List recent blessings and write a prayer of thanksgiving for each.
2.	Describe a moment when you felt God's healing in your life.
3.	Journal about ways you can express praise more consistently.







Prayer for Today

Father, I praise You for Your healing touch. Open my eyes to see Your hand at work in my life and fill my heart with gratitude. Help me never to ignore the blessings You give, but instead to lift my voice in thanksgiving. Let my praise bring glory to You always, as I acknowledge that every good gift comes from Your gracious hand. Amen.

















Your Verse

Luke 17:17—18 — 'Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"'

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 1:21 'Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him.'
- Psalm 106:13 'They soon forgot what he had done, and did not wait for his counsel.'







Devotional: Beware the Silence of an Ungrateful Heart

Ingratitude can be a silent thief that steals the joy of blessings and diminishes our relationship with God. Jesus' pointed question about the missing nine lepers reminds us that it is possible to receive God's gifts without returning thanks.

For these nine men, healing was not enough to spark a heartfelt response. Their neglect highlights a spiritual danger: when we become accustomed to receiving blessings without gratitude, we risk becoming spiritually blind and disconnected from God's ongoing work in our lives.

Ingratitude affects more than attitude; it shapes our spiritual health. It can lead us into complacency and even hardness of heart. As we reflect on this, it's essential to examine our own hearts and ask if there are ways we may be unintentionally overlooking God's blessings or failing to express genuine thanks.







Reflect and Apply

	Have you ever received a blessing but failed to thank God? Why do you think that happened?
2.	What are the spiritual consequences of taking God's gifts for granted?
3.	How can you guard against ingratitude in your daily life?







Journaling Prompts

	Write about a time you neglected to thank God and how it affected your relationship with Him.
2.	Identify habits or attitudes that might lead to ingratitude.
3.	Journal prayers asking God to cultivate a grateful heart.







Prayer for Today

Lord, help me recognize the dangers of ingratitude. Keep my heart sensitive and humble so that I never fail to give You thanks for Your blessings. Teach me to always respond in gratitude, honoring You with my words and actions. Restore any areas of my heart that have grown indifferent, and renew my spirit to worship You fully. Amen. *\mathbb{T} \infty \infty







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Your Verse

Luke 17:15—16 — 'The one who returned praised God in a loud voice and threw himself at Jesus' feet.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 50:23 'The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me.'
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'







Devotional: Giving Thanks as an Act of Worship

A simple thank you can transform our spiritual life. The one leper who returned to Jesus not only verbally praised God but also bowed down in humble gratitude. His response shows the power of heartfelt words and expressions of thankfulness.

Thanksgiving is not just polite behavior; it is a spiritual act of worship. It acknowledges God's goodness and restores intimacy with Him. When we speak thanks, we activate joy, reinforce faith, and protect ourselves from attitudes of entitlement or bitterness.

God delights in our grateful words, which glorify Him and align our hearts to His purposes. Reflect on how incorporating thanksgiving into your daily prayers and conversations can deepen your relationship with God and open doors for His blessings.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How often do you express words of thanks to God aloud or in prayer?
	What changes when you intentionally incorporate thanksgiving into your daily life?
	How can verbalizing gratitude impact your spiritual health and relationships?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write a prayer thanking God for specific blessings.
2.	Journal about your feelings when you express gratitude aloud.
3.	List practical ways to increase thankful speech in your day.







Prayer for Today

Gracious God, teach me to give thanks with my words and heart. Let my praise be sincere and continuous, a fragrant offering that honors You. Help me to speak gratitude even during trials, knowing it draws me closer to You. May my words glorify Your name and inspire others to seek Your goodness. Amen.















Your Verse

Luke 17:19 — 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well.'

Supporting Scriptures

- James 4:8 'Come near to God and he will come near to you.'
- Psalm 103:2 'Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.'







Devotional: Gratitude Restores and Deepens Faith

The act of gratitude represents more than thanks—it signals restored relationship. Jesus' words to the thankful leper, "Your faith has made you well," highlight that healing is not just physical but relational and spiritual.

When we return to God in gratitude, we renew intimacy with Him. Gratitude is a bridge that reconnects us with our Savior, strengthens faith, and renews purpose. The one leper was told to rise and go, reflecting a new life empowered by healing and faith.

Our spiritual journey is marked by moments of return, where thanksgiving acts as the key to restored communion with God. This reminds us that blessings are an invitation to deeper relationship rather than mere benefits to receive.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How does gratitude affect your relationship with God personally?
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	In what ways has returning thanks brought renewal or healing in your life?
	What steps can you take to cultivate continual relationship restoration through gratitude?
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Journaling Prompts

1.	Reflect on a time when gratitude strengthened your faith.
2	Journal about areas needing relational restoration with God.
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	Write down commitments to practice thankful living as relationship building.







Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for restoring me through Your grace. Help me see that gratitude is my pathway to deeper fellowship with You. May I rise daily renewed by faith and ready to live in Your presence. Teach me to always return to You with a thankful heart, strengthening my bond with You forever. Amen.







Day 6: 🎇 Living a Life Marked by Gratitude









Day 6: 🎇 Living a Life Marked by Gratitude

Your Verse

Colossians 3:15 — 'Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Philippians 4:6 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.'
- 1 Chronicles 16:34 'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.'







Day 6: 💥 Living a Life Marked by Gratitude

Devotional: Gratitude as a Way of Life

Gratitude is not a one-time act but a lifestyle. The New Testament calls believers to live thankful lives regardless of circumstances, allowing God's peace to reign in their hearts.

Such a life impacts our worldview, relationships, and spiritual growth. Like the one leper who returned to give thanks, we are called to be examples of thankfulness, influencing our communities and promoting God's glory.

Living a grateful life requires daily intentionality—recognizing God's goodness, expressing thanks, and relying on His presence for peace. It also means choosing gratitude amid trials, trusting that God's love endures forever and that His plans for us are good.







Day 6: 🎇 Living a Life Marked by Gratitude

Reflect and Apply

How can you cultivate gratitude daily, even during difficult times?
What benefits do you observe in your life when you live gratefully?
How does a thankful heart influence your witness to others?







Day 6: 🎇 Living a Life Marked by Gratitude

Journaling Prompts

1.	Plan a daily gratitude practice and journal your experiences.
2.	Write about challenges that make gratitude difficult and brainstorm solutions.
3.	Describe how your gratitude impacts those around you.







Day 6: 💥 Living a Life Marked by Gratitude

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to live a life marked by constant gratitude. Let Your peace rule in my heart as I choose thankfulness in every situation. Strengthen me to be a light of gratefulness to others, reflecting Your goodness and enduring love. May my thankful spirit glorify You and bring peace to my soul. Amen. **2**



















Your Verse

Psalm 107:1 — 'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians 5:20 'Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.'
- Psalm 118:1 'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.'







Day 7: \(\begin{aligned}
\text{Responding to God with a Thankful Heart}
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Devotional: A Heart Always Thankful to God

The call to gratitude echoes throughout Scripture. Psalm 107:1 captures the essence of God's unchanging goodness and love, providing solid ground for our thankful response.

As we conclude this study, consider how your heart has been challenged and changed by reflecting on the ten lepers. Gratitude is the ongoing response God desires—a heartfelt acknowledgment of His mercy and faithfulness.

Commit to cultivating a grateful heart that responds to God daily, not only in good times but also in trials. This response glorifies God and aligns us with His purposes, allowing His love to flow through us into the world.







Reflect and Apply

	What lasting changes will you make to cultivate gratitude in your spiritual walk?
	How does knowing God's love endures forever affect your attitude of thankfulness?
3.	In what ways can you encourage others to live thankful lives?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write a commitment statement to prioritize gratitude in your life.
2.	Reflect on God's enduring love and journal how it inspires thankfulness.
3.	Plan a way to share gratefulness with someone important to you.







Prayer for Today

Gracious God, thank You for Your unending love and goodness. Teach me to respond with a heart overflowing with gratitude each day. May my life honor You through thanksgiving, reflecting Your faithfulness to all who see it. Help me to encourage others to join in praise of Your wonderful name. Amen. 💸









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