

AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

Topic: Gratitude that Draws Us Near

Opening Prayer:

Lord, Your Word says, “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 107:1). As we reflect on Your goodness, open our hearts to respond with gratitude that honors You. May we recognize Your presence and draw closer to You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Read: Luke 17:11-19

As Jesus traveled along the border between Galilee and Samaria, ten men with leprosy cried out to Him from a distance, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us” (Luke 17:13). Their cry was one of desperation but also faith, acknowledging Jesus as their only hope.

Jesus responded with a command, “Go and show yourselves to the priests” (Luke 17:14), an act required by Jewish law for those who were healed of leprosy. Remarkably, as they obeyed, they were healed along the way. Yet, only one of them—a Samaritan, someone doubly marginalized by his illness and ethnicity—returned to thank Jesus.

Falling at Jesus’ feet, he praised God with a loud voice. His gratitude was not just for the physical healing but for the One who had brought it. Jesus’ response highlights the depth of this act: “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?” (Luke 17:17). The nine received the blessing but failed to return to the Blessor. Only the Samaritan demonstrated the gratitude that leads to worship.

This story reminds us that God’s blessings are invitations to deeper relationship. The nine lepers were healed physically but missed the spiritual renewal that comes from drawing near to Christ. The Samaritan’s gratitude brought him into Jesus’ presence, and he received not only physical healing but spiritual affirmation: “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well” (Luke 17:19).

In our lives, we often cry out to God in moments of need and celebrate His answers. But how often do we pause to truly thank Him, not just for what He has done, but for who He is? Gratitude shifts our focus from the gifts to the Giver, drawing us closer to His heart.

Conclusion:

The healed Samaritan teaches us that gratitude is more than polite acknowledgment—it is an act of worship that deepens our relationship with Christ. As we reflect on God’s blessings, let us remember to return to Him with hearts full of thanksgiving, celebrating not just His works but His presence in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

For Students:

1. What does this story teach about the importance of gratitude?
2. How can you remember to thank Jesus for the blessings in your life?
3. What does it mean to worship Jesus for who He is, not just for what He gives?

For Parents:

1. How can your family practice gratitude together?
2. What lessons about worship and thankfulness can you teach your children from this story?
3. How can you focus on God’s presence, not just His gifts, in your family’s prayers?

For Professionals:

1. How does the Samaritan’s gratitude challenge you to reflect on your own thankfulness?
2. What are practical ways to express gratitude to God in your workplace or daily routine?
3. How can a heart of gratitude impact your interactions with others?

This week, reflect on one specific blessing in your life. Spend time thanking God for it, then share with someone how this blessing has drawn you closer to Him.