

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... giving Him thanks ...”**  
*Luke 17:16*

There's always an occasion to give thanks to God. In this case one leper out of ten came back to thank Jesus for healing him. It just so “happened” that Jesus had an occasion to be there in Samaria. What makes the story even more interesting is that the leper was thrice in need. He was socially, physically, and spiritually far away. He was a social outcast by law because of his illness. He was not to be but a certain proximity to others, and he had to make his presence known to all by crying out, “Unclean!” when passing through public venues. He also didn't have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ until that day, “Your faith has made you well.”

As with occasions, opportunities are endless to give thanks to God. The believer just needs to be aware of the potential opportunities around him or her. The opportunities might be planned, and as it is in most cases, the opportunities to give thanks, or to give cause for someone else to give thanks, will be spontaneous and extemporaneous. In this text, Jesus is traveling from one place to another (His disciples probably with Him) and ten lepers see Him and cry out to Him. Jesus knew what was going to happen, but the disciples, the crowd, and the lepers didn't know. And it is the same with the 21<sup>st</sup> century believer. So be prepared as much as possible for an opportunity to give thanks to God.

Giving thanks to God is usually associated with something He has done for, or to, someone. Giving thanks to God doesn't have to be based on those conditions, but thanksgiving usually has some source in the meeting of a need. In this text, the need most notable by many would be the physical healing for the lepers. While that was an obvious need the most significant need for them, as it is with everyone else, was salvation. There is really no way to dissect the intricate work of God in one's life. As a matter of fact, no matter how many things one thanks God for, for what He has done or is doing, the thanks will always fall short of exhausting God's inexhaustible blessings in one's life.

Obedience is related to matters of thanks. Blessing follows obedience and discipline for disobedience. In the case of these lepers, they were told to go and show themselves to the priests. Jesus didn't tell them that they were healed and now go show yourselves to the priests. Upon hearing their outcry, He told them to go show themselves to the priests. The healing came as the lepers went. Read the story. It was as they went that the one which returned to Jesus to give thanks realized he was healed. Obedience is the action of faith.

What do you think your greatest need is? Do you give thanks to God according to Ephesians 1:3 in that we already have every blessing in the heavenlies, in Christ Jesus? Is your thanks based only on what tangible things you receive or possess, or is it your practice that because of who God is you find yourself giving Him thanks?