

**The 10 Lepers
(The Man Who Said Thank You)
(I wrote)**

Last week, we learned about how while Jesus was on Earth, He taught everyone...everywhere about God. He also taught them; WHAT IT TAKES to be able to go to heaven when they died. Which as we know is

- 1. Admit that you are a sinner**
- 2. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God...and that He died on a cross to pay the price for OUR sin**
- 3. Confess that you have sinned and pray to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins...to wipe away our sins...to clean us on the inside so that He...The Holy Spirit...can come live inside of our heart and be our Lord and Savior.**

**That's simple isn't it?
Jesus did all the hard work...He was whipped, and spit upon and hung on a cross to die...all for OUR sins...not His...but OURS.**

**And all we have to do is Admit, Believe and
Confess.**

**Now today, I am going to take you on an adventure
with Jesus.**

**In this adventure...Jesus is walking once again....just like
last week when all the people was following Him.**

But this time, Jesus is walking to Jerusalem.

**And while He is walking to Jerusalem...He meets 10
men...who by the way...need cleansing as well.**

**But the type of cleansing that these 10 men need is FAR
different.**

**You see, these men have a terrible skin disease called
Leprosy.**

Leprosy is a disease that causes big open sores to appear on the skin.

The disease eats away at the flesh causing it to appear white in color.

The disease will eat and eat and eat the flesh until it eats its way down to the muscle and nerves...causing nerve damage.

Often the damage is so severe that the person actually loses the use of their hands or their arms or even their legs and feet.

Leprosy is a very contagious disease.

It can spread from one person to another very easily.

In the Bible...if you had leprosy...there were strict rules that you had to follow.

To start with...you were forced to live outside of the camp away from all the other people.

You were forced to leave your friends and your family behind.

But that's not all...Even while living outside of the camp...if the lepers saw someone walking towards them...they had to call out..."Unclean, Unclean" so that the people approaching would know that they had leprosy and they could avoid coming in contact with them.

It was a very lonely, painful existence that they had to endure...a life of misery and torture as the disease kept eating and eating away at their flesh.

**In some VERY rare cases...leprosy would disappear.
But...you were not allowed to return to the camp until a
priest looked at you and declared that you were indeed
healed.**

**As Jesus approached the city, the 10 men were waiting
and watching for Him.**

**They had heard that Jesus might come their way and
they hoped that He might heal them.**

**You see, they had heard about the miracles that Jesus
had performed...and they were wanting a miracle of
their very own.**

**Because they were lepers, they were not allowed to
stand near the road.**

So they stood at a distance with hoods over their heads and scarves across their faces to hide their awful sores.

As soon as they saw Jesus approaching, they began to call out “Unclean, Unclean”.

But Jesus didn’t stop...instead, He walked closer and closer.

The men began to shout “Jesus! Teacher! Have mercy on us!”

Jesus called out to the men “Go and show yourselves to the priests”

The 10 men didn’t waste a second...they turned and ran toward town...to find the priest.

On the way, one of the men looked down and gasped. “Look!” he said excitedly.

“My leprosy is gone!” Jesus made me well.

**One by one, the men looked down and realized they
had been made well.**

**But they were so excited that they ran on and on to find
the priest.**

**BUT...they forgot something very special...they forgot to
thank Jesus.**

All the men that is....except ONE!

**One man knew that he needed to thank Jesus for what
He had done.**

**He was so glad that he ran back to thank Jesus for
making him well.**

He fell at Jesus' feet and with a loud voice, He praised God and He thanked Jesus over and over again.

Jesus was very pleased with the man...but as Jesus looked up, He noticed that the other men had disappeared.

"Where are the other 9 people? Are you the only one who returned?"

Through all of their excitement...all their happiness...they had forgotten to go back and tell Jesus "Thank You".

Instead, they had run off to see the priest without even thanking the one who had healed them.

Jesus looked down at the man and said "Rise and go. Your faith has made you well."

Many, many times...once Jesus has answered our prayers about something....we too...run off...all excited about what Jesus has done...but guess what?

We forget to come back...we forget to tell Jesus Thank You...we use Jesus as just a way to get what we want...and guess what? That isn't right!

The lesson we learn from the story of the ten lepers is the lesson of gratitude or being thankful.

Only one of the men that Jesus healed came back to thank him.

Are you a thankful person? Do you appreciate what your Jesus does for you? What your family does for you?

What others do for you?

Do you remember to say “thank you?” or do you have an attitude of “expectation?”

One year during VBS, I taught this same lesson and I noticed something that made me very sad...

You see, each day during VBS...at the end of the day...we gave the children a piece of candy, or a balloon, or a popsicle or a Little Debbie...some little something to take home with them.

As each of the children...32 of them... took their item from my hand...only two of them even bothered to say thank you.

And...something that was even more disturbing to me was that their parents were standing right there watching and didn't even take the opportunity to teach their children to say thank you.

They just stood there and looked at me...as if I OWED them something more.

Instead of being happy and “Thankful” for what had been given to them...they were looking around for what else they could have.

All I was doing was handing out little trinkets...and I felt bad...so bad in fact that I thought...what’s the use...I spend my money to give them something and they don’t even appreciate it...why even give them anything at all?

If I felt that badly with just little trinkets, how bad to you think Jesus feels when we forget to tell Him thank you for MUCH, MUCH, MUCH BIGGER THINGS?

We don’t say “thank you for the beautiful day...thank you for the teacher that taught me today...thank you for

my parents and how hard they work to provide for our family.”

We forget to say...”Thank you Lord for our home...for the food that we had to eat today...for the clothes on our back.”

He must feel terrible!

Something else that I noticed during VBS was that no one thanked the teachers for all of their hard work.

How many of you...before this morning...bothered to thank your teacher or any other the workers for all their hard work during VBS?

Did you thank Ms. Peggy or Ms. Norma and say “Thank You for teaching me about Jesus...have a nice week.”

Did you tell Ms. Annette “Thank you for teaching me...and for the candy...which I am sure that she gave you today...and which she buys with her own money...because she loves you so much.”

Did you tell Mr. Mike...”Thank you for teaching me...and thank you for the donuts today...which he also buys with his own money...because he loves you so much.”

Did you know that each teacher has a CHOICE of teaching or not teaching? They don’t get paid for what they are doing...EXCEPT...when someone says “Thank You.” Or you give them a hug...or you tell them that they are the BEST teacher in the whole wide world...or you make them a little card...or you write a special message to them on their white boards

That is how they are paid on this earth...which is worth more to them than ALL the money in the world.

They didn't have to teach you...they don't get paid for working...but they chose to work because they love you and they love the Lord.

They deserve your appreciation...Just like Jesus DESERVED to be told "Thank You." By all 10 lepers...not just one.

He deserved their appreciation AND their respect.

Our teachers deserve our respect as well...when you go to their classrooms...and they have worked for hours and hours on a lesson to teach you...and then you are noisy and disrespectful and you make it impossible to teach everyone...is that respectful? Does it show the teacher that you love them? No!

And did you know that there are LOTS of adults that could learn love and respect from you?

That you could show someone HOW to love?

The 10th leper was an excellent example of how to show thank you, how to love, how to respect.

If the other 9 had still been there...and they had seen the 10th leper thank Jesus...don't you think they would have thought "Oh yeah....Thank you Jesus?"

In 1 Timothy 4:12 the Bible says "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

Just because you are young...doesn't mean that God can't use you.

Even with something as simple as telling someone "Thank You" God is using you as an example to others.

No matter how far off track we have become as a nation...YOU...even as young as you are...You can be an example to ALL the others who have forgotten the simple courtesy of saying “Thank You”

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**During our “Big Apple Adventure VBS, we went on
several adventures with Jesus...**

**In the pre-school area...which is where I taught during
VBS we learned how Jesus healed the Centurion
Soldiers servant...even without seeing the servant in
person...Jesus simply spoke and the servant was healed.**

**And then in two of our lessons, we learned about two
women.**

**The Woman by the well and the woman who washed
Jesus’ feet with her tears...and then dried them with her
hair.**

**In our lesson today...I am going to take you on another
adventure with Jesus.**

In this adventure...Jesus is walking once again.

But this time, Jesus is walking to Jerusalem.

**And while He is walking to Jerusalem...He meets 10
men...who by the way...need cleansing as well.**

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What others do for you?

Do you remember to say “thank you?” or do you have an attitude of “expectation?”

During VBS, I noticed something that made me very sad...in fact...it made me think of this story and how sad Jesus must have felt.

You see, each day during VBS...at the end of the day...we gave the children a piece of candy, or a balloon, or a silly band or a Frisbee...some little something to take home with them.

As each of the 32 children in my classroom took their item from my hand...only two of them said thank you.

All I was doing was handing out little trinkets...and I felt bad...so bad in fact that I thought...what's the use...why even give them anything at all?

If I felt that badly with little trinkets, how bad to you think Jesus feels when we forget to tell Him thank you for MUCH, MUCH, MUCH BIGGER THINGS?

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