

“Just How Unworthy Are You? Understanding Grace and Gratitude”

Luke 17:11-19 11-24-2010

EVERYTHING THIS SIDE OF HELL IS GRACE AND MERCY. What does He owe us?

¹⁸ *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* 1 Thess 5:18

“Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:20

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Col 3:17)

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful...” Rom. 1:20-21

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.” Luke 6:35

Matter of Perspective: READ FOLLOWING STORY

"Dear Mom: Sorry I haven't written sooner. My arm really has been broken. I broke it, and my left leg, when I jumped from the second floor of my dormitory...when we had the fire. We were lucky. A young service station attendant saw the blaze and called the Fire Department. They were there in minutes. I was in the hospital for a few days. Paul, the service station attendant, came to see me every day. And because it was taking so long to get our dormitory liveable again, I moved in with him. He has been so nice. I might as well tell you that I'm pregnant. Paul and I plan to get married just as soon as he can get a divorce. I hope things are fine at home. I'm doing fine, and will write more when I get the chance. Love, Your daughter, Susie P.S. None of the above is true. But I did get a "C" in Sociology and flunked Chemistry. I just wanted you to receive this news in its "Proper Perspective!"

POINT 1- The CONDITION of the Leper. Vv. 11-12a

1. The lepers in Israel had to overcome the social STIGMA.
2. The leprosy they had was often thought of as a judgment for SIN.
3. Our spiritual condition was similar as we were considered OUTCASTS.

*“Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, **alienated** from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise.”* Ephesians 2:12a

POINT 2- The CRY of the Leper. Vv. 12b-13 LUKE 5:14; LEVITICUS 14:1-11

1. Their cries from afar off showed they had no HOPE.
2. Their cries of desperation showed that JESUS was their only hope.
3. Our spiritual condition should force us to CRY OUT.

*“...alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having **no hope** and without God in the world.”* Ephesians 2:12b

POINT 3- The CELEBRATION of the Leper. Vv. 14-19

1. True gratitude results from the proper PERSEPECTIVE.
2. True gratitude always understands its PRIORITY.
3. True gratitude is always connected with PRAISE.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” James 1:17