

Daily Devotional, April 21, 2020

“But Where are the Nine?”, (Luke 17:17, NKJV)

“So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?”” (Luke 17:17).

There came a day in Jesus’ ministry that as **“He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee”** (Luke 17:11), ten lepers stood afar off, beseeching His mercy and requesting a healing. Graciously, the Lord promptly healed them, and sent them to the priests in accordance with the Law of Leprosy in Leviticus Chapters 13 and 14. Only one of them, however, returned to Jesus to glorify God. Jesus asks aloud where the nine are. Then He makes this statement to the man who returned, **“Your faith has made you well”** (Luke 17:19). Ten men were healed physically, but only one showed evidence of spiritual healing.

Notice that it is possible to be healed physically by God, but not spiritually. It happens all the time. People pray foxhole prayers in their hour of deepest distress, receive healing and deliverance, and never come back to prayer to thank the God who helped them. Nine men got a healing, but there is no evidence that their healing led to a true faith in God. If this is true, and they remained in that condition, one day they died without spiritual healing, and are separated from God forever today. They missed the point of His mercy, to bring them into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Let us also consider how much less we say “thank you” to each other than we ought. Of the gifts I give to others, a thank you card seldom comes, and I am surprised when it does! Some folks have even complained that because my phone does not receive texts, they are forced to call and speak to me, or worse, they must thank me in person! The horror of it all! Let us therefore get in the habit of personally thanking those who graciously give us gifts, whether material or by way of advice or Christian ministry. Gracious acknowledgements ought to be the habit of the Christian.

Today, who can you thank for their kindness and help in your life? Are there any that you have neglected to thank? Have you thanked God lately for the beauty of His creation, your salvation and relationship with Him (if indeed you have it), the people in your life, your family, your health, and His provision of your basic needs? Let us thank Him now, and not neglect to return to Him to thank Him once more before we put our heads on the pillow tonight.