

Psalms 30:4 NAS ⁴Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And give thanks to His holy name.

Psalms 97:12 NAS ¹²Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones, And give thanks to His holy name.

Psalms 106:1 (& 107:1) NAS ¹Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

We've just entered my least favorite X of t/ yr. Leafless Fall and the promise of a long, grey, cold Winter.

This week, 2 Things Brought about my realization that the dreaded time was now here: 1) *Leaves Like Crazy on my lawn, not in the trees* 2) *Time-Change*.

1Thought has consumed me all week... "Great, God's led me to do a series on 'Gratitude,' at the precise time of the year when the weather and dark days just get me down."

Yesterday we spent most of the day in the yard...

-----Praise God the sunshine returned in full bloom.

-----At 1 point a nice current of Warm Air hit me ---INSTANTLY, I was taken back to warm, sunny days, mowing my lawn in Clermont, FL --- in JANUARY!!! *Know what I did?----* Out Loud, I said, "thank you Jesus for sending that warm current of wind my way!"

We Drill Our Girls on the use of Appropriate Mannerisms: Yes Mam, No Man, Yes Sir, No Sir...

Thankyou, No Thankyou

ME: I Often Find that I Lack an Ongoing Attitude of Gratitude b/c I find My Thoughts are Too Often Centered Around Me.

☛Woe, Big Deal, We All Deserve To Focus Some Attention on Ourselves

1) The Problem is: if everyone is focusing on ME (*THEMSELVES*), Where Does that Leave Us in Our Relationships?

◆Husband: it's all about me babe! ◆wife: no, it's about me = CAOUS!

2) If My Relationship with God is Always Me-Focused, what is that Relationship Like?

☑One of my biggest enemies comes from within (my own inner most feelings)

WE: You've faced moments, days, weeks... Where You've Found it Difficult to Look beyond your needs/wants (unfulfilled / unmet) to have an Attitude of Gratitude.

Your Relationships Suffer. Your Focus @ Work Suffers. Your Finances Suffer.

GOD: Where Is God in all of this? Does He really care or is He just out to get my money?

Luke 17:11 NIV *Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"*

Was it an accident that Jesus met up with these men?

Luke 19:10 NIV The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

NOTE: It was in Jerusalem that JC would die. He took time while on the way to the place He would give His life to speak hope into these guys' world.

10 MENWhat's Life Like for these Guys?

☹Quarantined from Society ☹No Hope for Change... *Hopeless*

☹Lonely ☹Spent a lot of their days remembering how good life was b4 leprosy.

☹Missed family and friends.

☹️Felt: unproductive unwanted like t/ dredges of society probably had lots of self-hate probably

4 Many, they succumbed 2 a defeatist attitude... All they could really do was wait 4 life 2 end

Leviticus 13:40 NIV "When a man has lost his hair and is bald, he is clean. ⁴¹If he has lost his hair from the front of his scalp and has a bald forehead, he is clean. ⁴²But if he has a reddish-white sore on his bald head or forehead, it is an infectious disease breaking out on his head or forehead. ⁴³The priest is to examine him, and if the swollen sore on his head or forehead is reddish-white like an infectious skin disease, ⁴⁴the man is diseased and is unclean. The priest shall pronounce him unclean because of the sore on his head. ⁴⁵"The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' ⁴⁶As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp.

¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance

¹³and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Why are they calling Him by name?

Small village in no mans' land... for the Israelites it was a village to close to the despised Samaritans.

For the Samaritans, they may of considered it too close to the Israelites.

Even here in this remote outpost, people had heard of JC. Huge Impact = People Talk'd

¹³and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Normally they would have sought \$ or food... b/ from Jesus they sought physical healing.

MERCY

SHOW ME: UR DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE THAT U CARE

SOME HERE TODAY: JC HAVE PITY ON ME... Give Me a Job. Help My 401K. Give me new leaders.

Get her to say "I do" Fix My Marriage.

Any normal person would have avoided them... ignored them...

Suppose Some1 Came 2U (Complete Stranger) ...coughing heads off, burning up w/ a fever, sd they had the Swine Flu, *and asked you to show them mercy by bringing them n2 ur home 4 care --what wld u do?*

¹⁴When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

---B4 U Start Complaining and Saying, C... All God Wants to Do is Boss Us Around... Give us a list of things to do / not do, look at what's behind JC's Command...

-----Lev 13/14 spell out in detail how t/ priests had t/ duty to declare people unclean & clean.

^{14b} *"Go, show yourselves to the priests...."*

Physically!

When They Began towards the priests, they were still diseased

...probably walking ...perhaps feeling dejected

^{14c} *And as they went, they were cleansed.*

Now, They'd Experienced a Game-Changer!

Do U know what it's like to be Behind... Game is Coming to a Close... U'v all but lost hope, & then the Game Turns in Ur Favor? *(OH, TT'S RT, IF UR A VA or VT Fan, ur still out of hope)*

GAME CHANGER! Time to Celebrate!

---Had been Walking w/ heads hung low.

If we were there, we'd been complaining how JC ☹️didn't spend enough time w/ us...

✘didn't come close to us ✘didn't touch ✘didn't bail us out

---NOW... shouting & running... They were running to the priests for their declarations of cleanliness. The quicker they could get to the priests, the sooner their lives could begin again.

¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him
—*and he was a Samaritan.*

¹⁷*Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"*

¹⁸*Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"*

¹⁹*Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."*

Did JC Care Any Less for the 9?

What did JC Want for all of them?

Who Fully Rcv'd the Whole Package from Jesus?

Samaritan:

Healed Completely of His Terminal Illness

Given the Ability: 2Return to His Home... 2Become a Part of Society Again.

Why Did He Return to JC FIRST? Recognized Jesus, not just as some miracle worker, but as someone MORE. They'd heard the Stories a/b a Great Miracle Worker. They'd heard the claims of some that He was the Messiah. ♦ The Samaritan Got Who Jesus Was... Had Faith in JC.

This one guy in one day, His Whole World Changed. He was looking for physical healing, but found so much more.

Expressed Gratitude to JC.

The Other Guys Had Also Just Received an Incredible Gift... But Apparently it Stopped at the Point of a Physical Healing.

Their Whole Reason 4 Encountering JC BEGAN & REMAINED as a Me-Centered Encounter. Their starting point was:

-----It's all about me

-----AND their finishing point was: It's all about me.

*****They Obviously Weren't Thankful.

But How Can U Say they Weren't Thankful?

Inexpressed Gratitude Reveals a Heart Lacking in Gratitude.

▶ their hearts were unchanged, so they could only see JC from a selfish perspective

▶ A Heart Lacking in Gratitude is a Heart that's Under-Valued... Lacking in Joy... Relationships are Strained. Smiling is more difficult, or U've learned to Fake it.

U RESPOND/ACT: Some of Us, U'r Life-Gage is WAAAAAY on the Empty Side of Gratitude. You Need a Fill-up.

If Ur a Christ-Follower: U need to ask God to Refresh Ur Relationship with Him... Remind U of Just How Much God Has Done for you

¹⁸*Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"*

¹⁹*Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."*

Karl Barth, famed theologian, ... some1 once asked him, "What is t/ greatest thought u ever had?"
Barth: *"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."* Tales 235

We: Imagine the Impact on our Community with a Church Made-Up of 100's of Individuals who Recognize the Preciousness their Salvation... REMEMBER JUST HOW FAR THEY WERE FROM GOD & HOW MUCH THEY WERE IN NEED OF JC... -----entrusted w/ the Gospel & LOVING on sinners all across our region

ASK GOD TO GIVE U AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE...
Tell God U Love Him... Tell Him Thanks for Saving You WITH YOUR FEET!

Humble Yourself and Ask forgiveness from those you've hurt because you didn't express Gratitude to God OR to them.

Homework: Make a List of 10 Things Ur Thankful to God for & Tell Him
Make a List of 10 Things Ur Thankful for in the Person That Matters Most & Tell Them.