DAY FIFTEEN

SATURDAY – NOVEMBER 15, 2025

Giving Thanks – Be Like the One!

"One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him" (Luke 17:15-16).

On one occasion when Jesus was traveling, He came face to face with ten lepers. It's hard to describe the physical, spiritual, social, and economic ramifications of leprosy. It was like a death sentence.

This skin disease was so highly contagious that it demanded the one inflicted to a life of total isolation. That meant a leper was completely shunned from normal activities of community life and banned from inclusion in worship in any temple or synagogue. The leper couldn't hold a job, couldn't live in a home with non-lepers (including his or her own family), couldn't shop in a market, couldn't own property, couldn't touch or hug or hold hands. Nothing. The leper's only option was begging for scraps, feeling the pain of perpetual heartache and total rejection, and waiting to deteriorate and die.

And yet when the ten cried out for mercy, Jesus reached out and touched the untouchable and loved the unlovable. He healed all ten. We can only imagine how it must have felt for them to be touched after so long.

As dire a life as lepers had, only one out of the ten returned to give thanks to Jesus for healing them. He returned to praise God in a loud voice and to cast himself at Jesus' feet in an attitude of gratitude. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" (17:17).

This story uncovers a tremendous flaw in human nature. We are simply forgetful recipients of God's great benefits. We fail to remember to return thanks to God for the multitude of ways He blesses our lives.

An elderly lady made an appointment to see President Lincoln one afternoon. As she entered the President's office, he arose, seated her and asked, "How may I be of service to you, Madame?" The little lady said, "Mr. President, I know you are a busy man. I have not come to ask you for anything. I simply came to bring you this box of cookies, for I heard that you enjoy them so much."

A silence followed in which tears overflowed the eyes of President Lincoln. Finally, he raised his head and spoke to the little woman. "Madame, I thank you for your thoughtful gift. I am greatly moved by it. Since I have been the President of this country, thousands of people have come into this office asking for favors and demanding things from me. You are the first person who has ever entered these premises asking no favor but only bringing a gift. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

I don't know about you, but I do not want to be in the 90% who forget to return thanks. I want to be like the one! Let's decide today to be in the 10% who remember to always choose an attitude of gratitude.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I take this moment to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the ways you provide for me and all the ways you guide me. Thank you for all the ways you accept me, touch me, and love me no matter what's going on in my life.

Brother Chris