

“A Life of Thankfulness”

Series: *Thankful*
(Part 2 of 2)

Open: What are some of the most powerful words in the English language? Why is the word “thanks” at the top of the list?

Explore: Read Luke 7:36-50.

Thankfulness is a major theme found throughout the Bible. No story illustrates the power of thanksgiving like an encounter Jesus had with a sinful woman found in Luke 7.

1. Who invited Jesus to dinner (vs. 36-39)? What did this man think about Jesus concerning the actions of the woman in the story?
2. What parable did Jesus tell to the man (vs. 40-43)? How did the man respond to Jesus’ question?
3. How did Jesus compare and contrast Simon’s hospitality with the women’s actions of gratitude and thanks (vs. 44-47)? What was the difference?
4. What double blessing did the woman receive (vs. 48-50)? What does this story tell us about the importance of living a life of thanksgiving?

Reflect: Review key points from the lesson before discussing the questions.

1. Without mentioning any names, can you think of a time when you did something for someone yet did not receive a “Thank you!” in return? How did it make you feel?
2. Ten men received a miracle of miracles from Jesus. Why do you believe only one returned to give Jesus thanks? What was Jesus’ reaction to the other nine?
3. Read Hebrews 13:15-16. Pastor John said having a sacrifice of praise has less to do with intensity and more to do with frequency. When are you most likely to share your gratitude with God? How can we become people who praise God continually?
4. The one man who stopped to give thanks was not only changed physically, but spiritually as well. Psychologists say that thankful people tend to be the happiest people. Why do you think this is true?
5. Not everyone thinks too much about the worship time of our weekend service. However our praise can encourage the people around us. How will this truth impact / influence your attitude today about corporate praise?

Apply: Next steps.

As a group: The best place to start living a life of thanks is with the people in your CARE Group / family. Take a moment to say “thanks” to every member in your group for their contribution.

On your own: Evaluate your praise. Do you have an attitude of gratitude? Developing a lifestyle of praise will require thanking God for things more than asking God for things. This week write a prayer of “thanks” to God. Take time to list as many reasons as you can find to give God praise.

Listening Guide Notes

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

-1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV84)

^[11] “Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ^[12] As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ^[13] and called out in a loud voice, ‘Jesus, Master, have pity on us!’ ^[14] When he saw them, he said, ‘Go, show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went, they were cleansed. ^[15] One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ^[16] He 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.’” **-Luke 17:11-19 (NIV84)**

When I give thanks ...

1. It pleases God.

^[15] “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. ^[16] And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” **-Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV84)**

2. It changes me.

^[1] “It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, ^[2] to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.” **-Psalm 92:1-2 (NIV84)**

3. It encourages others.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” **-Colossians 3:16 (NIV84)**