

If my people pray

Praise and Thanksgiving – Luke 17:11-19 Message Reflection Guide

Among the first words many of us were taught to say are please and thank you. No one gets quite as excited as a parent or grandparent when a toddler first utters those words and makes the connection between asking politely and receiving gratefully.

But I suspect that as we grow older we become more adept at saying please than thank you, especially with our heavenly Father. We focus more on pressing needs than on previous provisions; we petition more than we praise. And while God invites us to come to Him with all our needs, He also urges us to make gratitude a habit.

In Colossians 3:15, Paul instructed every follower of Jesus Christ to *“let the peace of God rule in your hearts.”* Then three times he reminded us to remain grateful to God: *“be thankful”* (v.15); *“sing with gratitude to the Lord”* (v.16); *“do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”* (v.17).

Dr. Michael Avery, president of God’s Bible School in Cincinnati, Ohio, has said: “Very few things honor and glorify God more than the sweet fragrance of a thankful soul. It expels gloom and ushers in sweet peace and blessed hope. Gratitude encourages graciousness.” It’s good to give thanks to God.

Conversation Starter

Mr Rogers said *“...whenever there is a crisis, look for the helpers then you will know there is hope...”*. Who have been “helpers” to you as you journeyed through a crisis or difficult season of life?

Getting Into The Scriptures

Read aloud Luke 17:11-19

Pastor Jason said *“We offer praise and thanks to God because He is the source of all our blessings.”* How has God blessed you recently? How has he surprised you in the past with provision or answer to prayer?

Brokenness gives us the opportunity to focus on the goodness of God. How have you seen the goodness of God during this season of the corona virus?

Praise and thanksgiving focuses on who God is. Who did the lepers believe Jesus was? What characteristic of God do you most appreciate and why?

Praise and thanksgiving focuses on what God has done. The greatest gift we have received is love and forgiveness from Christ. How can you share that gift with someone during this holiday season?

Think about what God did for you in the gospel, how should this create an attitude of thankfulness in you?

Making It Real

Recall a time when you had to be thankful in a difficult circumstance. Share your experience and what you learned from it. What have you neglected to thank God for? Set aside some time during thanksgiving to be quiet before God and spend time thanking Him. Think about what you will share during the “Show and Give Thanks” service on Sunday Nov 29th.