

# Grateful Hearts

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By Justin Morton

Like many of you, I have been extremely blessed over the course of my life. I have a wonderful family, a job that I embrace each day, many friends who support us and a clean bill of health. And if I'm honest, these blessings are only the tip of the iceberg. God is and always has been very good to me.

Yet, despite these blessings and many more in my life, I am afraid I tend to be forgetful. Not the kind of forgetfulness older people tell me comes with age, but the kind of forgetfulness that comes from a lack of gratitude. Sometimes I am guilty of not being grateful enough for all God has given me.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read of a time when Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem passing between Samaria and Galilee (Luke 17:11-19). As he was making His journey, He was met by ten lepers who cried out to Him for mercy and healing. Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priests, and as they went all ten were immediately cleansed of their dreaded disease.

One of the ten healed, a Samaritan, immediately turned back and fell on his face before the feet of Jesus and gave thanks for what Jesus had done in his life. But it's the response of Jesus that I want us to consider. Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

Jesus had taken the time to bless ten lepers by healing them of their disease. However, after they were healed, only one of the ten took the time to go back and offer thanks for the blessing of his new health. For whatever reason, the other nine failed to offer thanks.

Too often I am afraid that many of us have the same response as the nine who failed to return. It's not that we are purposely ungrateful to the Lord for all He has done for us, we just get so busy enjoying all God's blessings that we don't take the time to offer up our heartfelt gratitude as we should.

Friends, there is never a good excuse for ungrateful hearts. As David reminds us, *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all of his benefits* (Psa. 103:2). God saves, satisfies and supplies. We should forever be people with grateful hearts.