

2018 END-OF-YEAR CAMP MEETING

DELIVERANCE HOUR MESSAGE

BY

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TITLE: GOD LOVES A GRATEFUL HEART OF FAITH

It's Just Good Manners!

While on earth, the business of doing good was a trademark of the Lord Jesus. He was God in the flesh, and He went about changing lives and destinies by His miracle touch of healing and deliverance (Acts 10:38).

And no one was obliged to pay for the service. He healed the sick and set the oppressed free, free of charge.

Nevertheless, He expected those so touched by Him to show gratitude. Not as something insisted on by Him but as a natural reaction to the good work He had done in their lives. In fact, it is not strictly speaking a Bible-only rule; it is a common-sense rule that we ought to show gratitude for a good deed done by others for our benefit.

Sadly, this common-sense rule does not usually translate into a common practice. Such was the case of ten lepers Christ healed; only one thought it wise to thank the Lord for the good work done on him.

Only a Work in Progress

Travelling along life's journey, we have reached particular points in our journey in which we felt abandoned by people we trusted and had hope in, but God stepped in and saved the day for us. He was our singular source of hope and comfort – the usual sources of hope and comfort had been cut! We were emotionally ostracized from society and friends and left to our fate. But then, we saw the Saviour passing by – He always shows up in the darkest of hours and at the most unlikely times when hope is scarce. He filled us with hope. But given how hope dried up in places where we sought for it, we could only manage a wan look of expectancy in His direction. We momentarily felt unworthy of His attention and help.

But we decided to cry unto Him anyway – to see if He would live up to His job title. And sure it worked.

He set us on a sure path of hope – “God shew yourselves unto the priests”. As we went, we were cleansed; we were now walking a miracle path. We got the job; we got healed; we got married; we got a promotion. We won the victory. We are a work in progress until we get to the priests to be declared clean!

But how many of us took a pause to thank the One who bade us, ‘Go see the priests’?

Our interest was only directed inwards. It’s all about ourselves. We are cleansed so we spend hours preening and admiring ourselves in the mirror. However, the healer was never us! The healer is the Saviour we met in the way, and He loves to hear us say, ‘Thank you Lord’! So let us give it to Him tonight.

Lest we become like the nine lepers who were so enthralled by the ongoing miracle in their lives that they forgot all about the miracle worker. Remember, we are a divine work in progress (Ps. 138:8); we haven’t reached the priests yet.

The story of the ten lepers, only one of which returned to thank the Lord, is a touching, real-life story of God’s grace and the human tendency to be ungrateful. But at the root of it is a lack of faith – where the unvoiced acknowledgement may go to mere luck. But we can go higher in grace.

Gratitude in Return for Wholeness

The one quality the tenth leper, who gave thanks to the Lord, had and the others lacked was a grateful heart of faith. It took him from cleansing to wholeness:

“And it came to pass, as He went to Jerusalem, that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

“And as He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

“And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

“And when He saw them, He said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

“And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

“And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

“And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

“There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

“And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole” (Luke 17:11-19).

Apparently, Jesus met them by chance likely on the outskirts of the village, but once a Saviour always a Saviour. The stage is set for a miracle (as tonight!). But then, the lepers dared not draw

close to Him; they stood at a distance, for their condition required so as enshrined in the law. (See Lev. 13).

From where they stood, they lifted up a cry of mercy, calling on Him to help them out of their situation. They succeeded in drawing his attention, for “He saw them”, as He has seen and will see some sick people and oppressed tonight!

His simple instruction to them, which contained His words of healing, was that, “Go shew yourselves to the priests.” As they went, they were cleansed, not when they stood still.

Half-way, one of them turned back to give the Lord thanks “with a loud voice”, as he prostrated at His feet.

Here comes another important point of differentiation: “He was a Samaritan.” It is said that familiarity breeds contempt. We must be careful not to show ingratitude to God because of the well-known human vessel He used.

Familiarity or not, God expects us to show gratitude to Him for His goodness towards us. I can personally testify that there are few here with the Samaritan-like quality of gratitude. How many of us weren’t healed and delivered during last year’s camp meeting? But how many are ready to testify to God’s glory at this year’s event?

Unless we have a change of heart, God not only sees a lack of gratitude but also a lack of faith without which we cannot please God.

In the end, we will be denied what only faith can give us – wholeness. All the ten lepers were cleansed as they went their way, but to only one of them – the grateful leper from Samaritan – did the Master say, “thy faith hath made thee whole”.

This is what we must seek tonight. As we come to Him, we seek not only to be healed but to be made whole; we seek not only business prosperity but wholeness; not only deliverance but wholeness and wholeness!

We want our whole being to be infused with the miracle life and power of Christ. We seek to be made whole. So let’s stir our hearts into gratefulness; let’s thank the Lord for all He has done – and about to do – in our lives.

A grateful heart towards God is a heart of faith which acknowledges God as its sole source of hope and salvation. It’s an acknowledgement affirmed by mouth and praise. This is what He expects of us tonight. He not only cleanses (Grk *Katharizo* #2511) but also makes us whole (Grk *sôzô* #4982). He is able to save us to the very end as our eternal efficient intercessor (Heb. 7:25).

Come with a heart of gratitude; come with a heart of faith. Yeshua is ready to make you whole. Amen!