

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #63

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 17:11-19

Sermon Date: Dec 10, 2006

“Thanks, Dad.”

Recently, my son was especially thankful after I'd helped him get out of a jam with a homework project. He thanked me so sincerely that night, and again the next morning. He's always been pretty good about saying thanks for things, but there was something extra this time – his heart was fully engaged as he shared how much he appreciated what I'd done. It really challenged me to think, “How faithful am I in expressing my appreciation toward those who do things for me?”

On an infinitely grander scale, our Heavenly Father does so much for us. He even gave us the ultimate gift by sending his Son Jesus to rescue us from our entanglement in sin, and enable us to have eternal life. Now that calls for sending the “very best” thank you card, don't you think? Do we truly care enough to send the very best?

This study will challenge you about your own gratefulness as you cringe at the story of nine men who didn't care enough to even say thanks to Jesus after being healed of Leprosy. So give thanks to God, and open His Word ...

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and posting at www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

*South Shore Baptist Church
578 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-2592*

Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>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!"</p> <p>¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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."</p>	

Look Closer:

2. Why did Jesus tell the men to go and show themselves to the priests? (see Lev 13:1-46, Num 5:1-4)
3. If men who still had leprosy went before the priests, what would probably have happened?
4. The men were healed after they left to go to the priests. What does this say about their faith? (consider the contrast between their response and that of Naaman in 2 Kgs 5:1-15)
5. The nine men do not come back to Jesus. Instead, they may have gone on to see the priests after being healed, and the priests would have seen they were now "clean" and perhaps judged accordingly (probably freeing them to go back into society). What does this imply about the priorities of the nine men?
6. The one man who returns and praises God is a Samaritan. The others were perhaps Jews, since the group was told by Jesus to go and show themselves to the Jewish priests. What is the significance of this man being a Samaritan? (consider the Luke 10:30-37 and John 4:9) What would his being a Samaritan have meant to the Jews who witnessed or heard about this incident?

9. What is the main point or basic message of Luke 17:11-19?

Do What It Says

9. How would you assess your own “GQ” – your Gratitude Quotient? One way to think about that is how often do you communicate appreciation toward God in comparison to how often you ask God for things. Another way to look at it is to consider how you prioritize praising and worshipping God relative to how you prioritize other things in your life.

10. What is one new way you could show your gratitude toward God? How specifically could you do that this week?

11. Where in your life do you tend to focus on worldly priorities and your own priorities rather than “returning to Jesus”? What is one new spiritual practice or habit you could form or strengthen in order to become a bit more like the one Samaritan man and less like the nine ungrateful others?

Give Thanks

We are repeatedly reminded in the Bible to be grateful toward God.

He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy. (Psalm 107:20-22)

And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. (Heb 13:12-15)

12. Do you think some of the nine men looked back later on in their lives and regretted not returning to Jesus to thank Him and praise God? What has God done for you that you feel you have not “gone back” and thanked Him for or praised God about? Well, it’s not too late.

You can start by using the space below and/or on the back to write God a **thank you note**.