

Where are the Nine. Luke 17-17.

I think this topic taken from Luke 17. 17 is especially interesting & suitable for this time of the year as the text suggests to us the meaning of Thanksgiving - a day which we all so recently have commemorated

We have in this text too, I think, a challenge thrown to us, of obedience through service as witnesses for Christ. Jesus words "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?" echoes down through the ages to you & me. What have we done about the salvation that was offered us through Christ's shed blood on the Cross of Calvary? What are we doing about the blessings that God showers down upon us from day to day? Can you & I class ourselves with the one leper who was cleansed & returned to give glory to God, or are we with the nine who did not return. Have we lost the full blessing & the wonderful words of the Master, as He spoke to that cleansed man of Samaria "Thou go thy way. Thy faith hath made thee whole."

We, in our own small world in giving a gift to someone do not like to see when the one who has received the gift does not even bother to say thank you.

... & I qualify in a much bigger way
 some thing in relation to our God
 gave the greatest gift of all?

Leprosy is a contagious disease &
 is a virtual rotting away of the body
 while yet alive. It starts in a small way
 - a small white spot - soon there are
 several more - then come ulcerated sores
 which soon spread many lose fingers
 & toes & if no treatment is given death claims
 the victim.

In the time of Jesus any man who
 had the dreadful disease was cast out &
 forced to keep off the roads where other people
 came along. They must cry out "Unclean
 unclean" & people shunned them. But Jesus
 had love for the wretched lepers & healed them.

Leprosy was prevalent in Europe during
 the middle ages but at that time they did
 not know any remedy for the disease &
 very little was done for the lepers. In
 India to-day there are a million lepers. Africa
 too has many lepers. Its anti-leprosy treatments
 are being carried out by our missionary
 doctors & nurses. Leprosy still exacts a
 heavy toll of human lives in these areas.

There are many many diseases to-day
 some incurable that man is frightened of
 & tries his best to avoid but the greatest
 disease of all is the leprosy of sin which
 eats into our very souls & there is nothing

in ourselves can do about it. but
 the need of cleansing in the
 of men & because of His great love
 He provided a sure cure. He sent
 His Only Son to die for us that we might
 be cleansed & live forever with Him.

Such great love does not regard
 the coat which a man may wear but
 the heart that beats under the coat - man's
 immortal soul which He put such a
 high value on that He gave His all to
 redeem. It is a little matter what a
 man dies of - what earthly possessions he
 may have at the time of death - but it
 does matter how he dies; whether he has
 accepted Christ as His Saviour & is ready
 to meet His God.

Are you grateful to God for what he
 has done? If so is there anything you
 can do that you have left undone for
 the Master? Are you & I guilty of negligence
 in our attitude towards God? I believe
 that if we have accepted God's plan of
 salvation - His cleansing through the shed
 blood of Calvary; God demands from
 you & from me our reasonable service.

There are so many ways to serve
 - so many ways that souls can be
 reached. Perhaps we cannot speak we
 can pray, and if we cannot do either of
 those things there are two ways we all

serve - by giving & praying. There is
 a situation which I should like to give you
 of the different ways our missionaries
 out on the fields use in bringing
 the gospel to the heathens. This is the story
 of an old grandma in a leper colony in the
 Sudan. Her name was Sunrise or Nontack.
 Speaking, singing, giving of material needs were
 all factors in bringing this leper to Jesus.

Yes God gave us all to save us
 what will you give in return. If our
 gratitude to God is to be pure & undefiled
 we must examine our selves in the
 light of His word & repent. We must
 show our gratefulness to God by confession
 & by being ready to serve & work in His
 Kingdom. We must share God's gifts as
 faithful stewards of the manifold Grace
 of God.

Jesus is still asking you & I "were
 there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?"

— Rich Tatal