

“WHERE ARE THE NINE?”

Introduction

- 1) On several occasions, Jesus asked pointed and necessary questions (cf. Matt. 16:15)
- 2) **Luke 17:11-19** – on this occasion Jesus entered a village as He traveled through Galilee and Samaria toward Jerusalem to be delivered up and crucified for the sins of man

I) **The Details of the Story**

- A) Ten male lepers, standing afar off, cry out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”
- B) Jesus tells them to go show themselves to the priests and, as they went, they were cleansed
- C) One, a Samaritan, when he saw he was healed, returned and loudly glorified God, falling at Jesus’ feet to give Him thanks
- D) Jesus asked, “Were there not ten cleansed? But **where are the nine**? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”
- E) Jesus tells the Samaritan to arise and go his way – “Your faith has made you well”

II) **The Need to Be Thankful**

- A) Nine out of the ten cleansed lepers failed to return to give glory to God and thank Jesus
 - 1) A lack of thankfulness and giving God glory is dangerous for the soul (Rom. 1:21)
- B) Giving thanks constantly to God is a very important part of the faithful Christian’s life (Psa. 100:4; 1 Thess. 5:18; Col. 4:2)
 - 1) The need to show gratitude is something to be learned from childhood
 - 2) This healed Samaritan is an excellent example of giving due gratitude to God

III) **“But Where Are the Nine?”**

- A) Why did the other nine not return to give thanks? Where were they?
 - 1) Hurrying on to the priests to be declared “clean”?
 - 2) Running home to rejoin family and friends?
 - 3) Caught up in the joy and happiness of their new lease on life?
- B) We clearly can see where they are **not** – not humbly at the feet of Jesus giving thanks
 - 1) We must never forget to give thanks for every blessed gift from above (Jas. 1:17-18)
- C) Jesus noticed and noted their absence with wonder – not ignored or excused
 - 1) God watches with great interest our attitudes, choices, and priorities (Heb. 4:12-13)

IV) **Important Applications**

- A) Physical disease of leprosy is symbolic of sin as the deadly spiritual disease of the soul
 - 1) Sinners stand separated from God desperately needing His mercy (Eph. 2:4-5)
 - 2) Must come to God in faith seeking His compassionate healing (Heb. 11:6; Isa. 55:6-7)
- B) We must GO to Jesus for cleansing, and then GO to Jesus again in thanksgiving
 - 1) We cannot be content only in receiving God’s blessings; we need to be always thankful
 - 2) A humble heart filled with seeking and thanksgiving will be healed and restored (Lk. 7:50)
 - 3) Is God still asking of us, “Where are those who are humble and thankful?”
- C) Similar important questions that God may ask: (cf. Lk. 18:8)
 - 1) Where are the worshipers of God and seekers of His kingdom?
 - 2) Where are the preachers and teachers of the saving gospel of Christ?
 - 3) Where are the parents, leaders, and citizens in this world who will put God first?
 - 4) Where are the good, kind, compassionate, hospitable, and caring for the less fortunate?
 - 5) Where are the faithful, the righteous, the godly, the defenders and contenders for the truth?

Conclusion

May we never forget to give thanks to a God who is due more gratitude that we could ever give.
May selfless gratitude to God fill our hearts and humble us before Him.