

## Thank and Giving

Today, we have a special Sunday worship service for Thanksgiving. I wonder what comes to your mind when you think of the word 'Thank'. When I was a child, looking at the circumstances around me, there seemed to be nothing to thankful for. I was so poor and the words 'be thankful to every circumstances' sounded ridiculous to me. I found people with similar thoughts as I did in my childhood in today's text.

Luke 17:11-12

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.

The leprosy of that time was considered as a curse of heaven. It was a disease that stigmatized by everyone as an "unclean person," and isolated from all communities such as family, relatives, friends, and villages. They had to live as a sinner even though they did not commit any sin. Could they have been thankful for their lives? They probably thought they were abandoned by God. They wanted to meet Jesus because they heard the rumors that Jesus has healed leprosy. They heard that Jesus healed leprosy by touching and talking.

Luke 17:13-14

13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

They shouted from afar because they should not have been seen by people. Then Jesus told them to go show yourselves to the priest, without a word of confirmation that they have healed. He did not want us to focus on his power of healing rather wants us to look at it as 'faith'. So, he wanted to heal them through this procedure. They walked to priest in obedience. Faith has given them an obedience, miracles, and fruit.

Luke 17:15-16

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.

All of them experienced miracles and knew that God was alive. That was the end, except for one person. the rest viewed the miracle as a “compensation.” They thought they deserved this miracle because they have been suffering so much. But one Samaritan was different. He ran to give thanks to Jesus for healing him because he felt like he was not qualified for such a miracle. He confessed and thanked him in tears. He thanked Jesus for a gift, not for a compensation. He just believed and obeyed. He received a wonderful miracle as a gift. Others did not have any reason to go back to Jesus because they considered it as a “compensation.” However, one person did not view it as a reward, but as a gift. Then a real confession of gratitude burst out of his mouth. He fell down at the feet of Jesus. Then he hears the voice of Jesus.

Luke 17:18-19

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.”

Only one person receives the real gift of “salvation” through “faith”. They all risked their lives and went to Jesus and the priest. those who thought they deserved grace turned back home and were unbelievers. Jesus said, one who came back to Jesus and fell prostrate that he was not entitled to receive grace is who has faith and is entitled to receive salvation. Gratitude makes this difference. If we are believers in the cross of Jesus Christ, we must have gratitude for it. without gratitude, we do not deserve the atonement, the grace.

A real gratitude begins with knowing that we are not worthy of salvation as a gift. Let us not view that salvation as a compensation. The moment we consider what God has done to us as a reward, we fall into those without faith. We could fall into ungrateful children who forsake the gratitude he deserves. Let us be children of God who takes all that has done to us as a gift and gives thanks. Happy Thanksgiving!