

“Giving Thanks When Thanks Isn’t Given”

Scripture:

Luke 17:11–19 — The Ten Lepers

Only one returned to thank Jesus.

Ten were healed... **one** came back with gratitude.

Nine walked away without a word.

Jesus asked:

“Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?” (v. 17)

Even Jesus experienced what it feels like when people benefit from you but never thank you.

Yet He healed them anyway.

Sermon

There’s a special kind of gratitude that heaven notices — the gratitude you give even when no gratitude comes back.

We live in a world where kindness often goes unnoticed, service is taken for granted, and thank-yous are forgotten. But God never wastes a good deed, even when people do.

Jesus healed ten.

Only one thanked Him.

But Jesus blessed all ten anyway.

Why?

Because gratitude is your identity — not your reward.

Some people will eat the meal you cooked, borrow the tools you fixed, and walk on the bridge you built...

and never whisper a thank you.

But here’s the truth:

You don’t give thanks because people deserve it.

You give thanks because God deserves it.

When people don’t thank you, thank them anyway.

Not because they earned it — but because *you are a thankful person.*

A True-to-Life Story: “The Janitor Who Changed the School”

There was a school janitor named Mr. Harris.

For 32 years he mopped floors, fixed tables, changed bulbs, and unlocked doors. He greeted kids every morning, remembered birthdays, and shoveled snow without being asked.

And you know what?

Almost no one ever thanked him.

One day, the school hosted an assembly to honor retirees.

They called his name.

The kids didn’t know who he was until they saw him walk forward in his old brown jacket carrying his mop handle like a walking stick.

Suddenly the teachers stood.

Then the kids.

Then the parents.

A standing ovation for a man who went decades without a single “thank you.”

When they asked him how he felt, he just smiled and said:

**“I wasn’t doing it for applause.
I did it because it was right.”**

He didn’t wait to be thanked to keep serving.

He didn’t stop giving just because others stopped noticing.

Like Jesus healing ten knowing only one would return,

Mr. Harris kept showing love even when love wasn’t returned.

Main Point

Don’t let someone else’s silence silence your gratitude.

You don't need a thank you to keep doing good.
You don't need appreciation to stay faithful.
You don't need applause to stay generous.

Why?

Because God sees it.
God remembers it.
And God rewards what others overlook.

Closing Thought

When you thank people who never thank you,
you are acting like Jesus.

Thank them anyway.

Bless them anyway.

Love them anyway.

Because heaven hears what earth ignores.

I