

The Wholeness of Thanksgiving

Scripture: Colossians 2:6-7

Introduction:

In England in 1620 King James was the king. There was basically one church of the day and it was the Church of England. King James was not only the supreme ruler of the land he also had the last say in the church. He gave the priests the right to interpret the bible as long as he had the last say. Anyone rebelling against this was executed.

Eventually, some sought to reform the Church of England, these folks were called Puritians. However a small group knew that getting away would be the only way to have religious freedom to be able to dig into God's word for themselves and live as they understood God. These people began in secret to hold their own church services and tried numerous times to leave but there was a law in effect which required a license for anyone to leave England. In other words you had to have permission to leave.

This group that sought separation became known as separationists. And of the 102 people on board the Mayflower, headed to Colonize America, 1/3 were separationists and it would have been much more if the second ship the speedwell wouldn't have had to turn back because it was leaking too much for the voyage.

This group became known as Pilgrims and they landed at Plymouth Massachusetts in December of 1620. The following fall they celebrated with the local natives a harvest celebration that most of us recognize as the first Thanksgiving.

*I would have liked to hear their prayer. They had so much to be thankful for. I'm sure they thanked God for a safe journey across the ocean. Since they had been starving to a large degree they probably thanked God for their food. Maybe they thanked God for their new friends and each other. But certainly without any doubt they thanked God for their religious freedom. To worship God as they understood from scriptures. If you go there today you can see Plymouth Rock and a replica of the Mayflower.

TS. This morning, it's my belief that God's blessings have been showered upon all of us and our thanks, to Him, should be overflowing.

Reading: Luke 17:11-19

Lesson:

I. **10 Lepers have needs** (Verse 12)

- A. Leprosy is defined as a chronic, infectious disease characterized by soars and white spots beneath the skin.
- B. To have leprosy was nothing less than a Plague
 - If you had leprosy:
 - You had to separate from everyone elseinfectious
 - You would be unclean
 - OT connotation of sinful
 - Not acceptable to God
 - OstracizedOutcast
 - Disgusting even to yourself.
- C. Here Jesus meet 10 such men living in a Leper Colony
 - They stood at a distance. Limited by their disease.

II. **They asked for blessings** (Verse 13)

- A. The text says that They raised their voices
 - Crying out in despair
 - Couldn't help themselves.
 - Their flesh was rotten and getting worse.
 - B. They cried for Mercy
 - Don't give us what we deserve
 - We are at the end of our ropes
 - Heal our bodies.
 - *Can you hear their cries
 - We have family that need us
 - We want be able to worship at the temple
 - We are hungry
- *Please give us a blessing and heal our bodies.

III. **Jesus gave them a blessing** (Verse 14)

- A. Go show yourselves to the priest
 - He didn't heal them right then
 - But he required that they go show themselves to the priest
 - For purification
- B. Insomuch as they follow the word of the Lord
 - On the way to see the priest, their physical disease was healed.
- C. The text says they were cleansed
- D. Everything would be alright now because their disease was gone. They had received a blessing from the Lord and they were in happy days.
 - *cleansed.

IV. **One gave thanks** (Verse 15-16)

- A. One remembered where he had been
- B. One knew that only God could heal him
 - He fell on face
 - He humbled himself
 - He glorified God
 - With loud voice
 - For all to here
 - This mans faith combined with thankfulness, for the blessing, made him well, not cleansed but well!
 - Well here:
 - Has to do with being saved from danger, loss, or destruction
 - It means whole
 - It refers to salvation.
- C. He was the only one to come back
 - He must have been a really godly man?
 - Certainly a good Jew right?
 - *No he was a Samaritan.

*The other guys had only been blessed but this man was made whole because of a faithful heart filled with thanksgiving.

V. **9 were not grateful.** (Verse 17-18)

- A. Maybe they thought God just owed it to them
 - Saw it as a windfall
- B. They were so consumed with the blessing they forgot the blessing!
 - Hey look at my skin.....its gone
 - I don't hurt
 - I can move easy
 - People aren't staring at me
 - *They were consumed with themselves.
- C. No respect
- D. No acknowledgment of Jesus' authority....power....or his love
- E. What does it say to us that 90% of these guys were not thankful?
- F. Romans 1:21 The wicked don't thank God
- G. They were merely receivers of blessings, they did not consider their responsibility to a blessing

Conclusion:

Have you ever done something to help someone and not ever be thanked.

-How many times has the world around us plagued us with spiritual disease

*Maybe your disease this morning has kept you isolated from God.

-How many times have we merely asked for a blessing

-How many times have we neglecting thankfulness and missed out on being made whole

***Have you considered your responsibility to God's blessings?**

Church it is our thankfulness through faith in God that will give us the wholeness we seek.

What should you be thanking God for in your life that you haven't been?