

那九個在那裡呢？ WHERE ARE THE OTHER NINE?

「耶穌往耶路撒冷去、經過撒瑪利亞和加利利。進入一個村子、有十個長大痲瘋的迎面而來、遠遠的站著。高聲說、耶穌、夫子、可憐我們罷。耶穌看見、就對他們說、你們去把身體給祭司察看。他們去的時候就潔淨了。內中有一個見自己已經好了、就回來大聲歸榮耀與神。又俯伏在耶穌腳前感謝他。這人是撒瑪利亞人。耶穌說、潔淨了的不是十個人麼。那九個在那裏呢。除了這外族人、再沒有別人回來歸榮耀與神麼。就對那人說、起來走罷。你的信救了你了。」〈路十七：11-19〉

有一位祖母帶著她的孫子在海灘上玩。當他們玩的正高興的時候，忽然一個大浪把小孫子捲到海裏去了。這位祖母急的不得了，立刻跪下來向神禱告，說，「神阿！求你將我的孫子還給我，這是我唯一的祈求。」

不一會兒，又一個大浪由海上湧起，打向岸邊，把全身濕漉漉卻完好無恙的小孩送回到她的腳前。她仔細地檢查寶貝的小孫子，確定他一切都好，然後很生氣地向神說，「我們來的時候他戴有一頂帽子的。」

我們常常也像這位祖母一樣，雖然蒙了大的恩典，卻因一點點不如意的小事就開始抱怨，而忘了將感謝歸給神。

十個長大痲瘋的得醫治

在路加福音第十七章記載著主耶穌

‘Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him-- and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."’ (Luke 17:11-19)

a grandmother who took her little grandson to the beach. They were having a good time until a huge wave came in and swept the boy out to sea. She fell down on her knees and pleaded to the heavens, "Please return my grandson -- that's all I ask! Please!!!"

A moment later, lo and behold, a wave swelled from the ocean and deposited the wet, yet unharmed, child at her feet. She checked him over to make sure that he was okay. He was fine. But still she looked up to the heavens angrily and said, "When we came he had a hat!"

We expect her to give thanks for this extraordinary experience. Just like that grandmother, we often focus on little imperfection, ignoring God's special act of kindness, and forget to give Him thanks.

TEN SAMARITANS WERE HEALD

In our Scripture, we find Jesus traveled along the border between Galilee and Samaria. There was a

正往耶路撒冷去、途經撒瑪利亞和加利利。撒瑪利亞人是最被猶太人所瞧不起的，甚至他們行路都不願意經過撒瑪利亞的地方。因撒瑪利亞人和外邦人通婚，猶太人認為他們的血統是混雜的；並且因他們的信仰雖也根據猶太傳統，但又滲有外邦的風俗，所以敬拜被認為是虛假的。

主耶穌在約翰福音第四章曾特別經過撒瑪利亞，在正午最熱的時候坐在敘迦的井旁，為了將生命的活水賜給那位撒瑪利亞的婦人。主所看重的是人的生命，所以祂願意親近並拯救每一個人。

在這裡主遇見了十個長大癩瘋的迎面而來。大癩瘋在當時是一種最可怕的不治之症，不單身體要忍受被病菌侵蝕、潰爛的痛苦。更可怕的是，得了大癩瘋的人必須從社會中被趕出去，過著隔離的生活。當他們看見人時，必須遠遠的站著，並且要呼喊「不潔淨了、不潔淨了」，以免別人靠近。

這十個長大癩瘋的人是最可憐的一班人。當他們看見主時高聲說、「耶穌、夫子、可憐我們罷。」雖然他們對主的認識僅停留在夫子的階段，但主裡面對他們卻充滿了憐憫。主何等地願意醫治他們，救他們脫離痛苦。

主要他們去把身體給祭司察看，聖經說，「他們去的時候就潔淨了。」他們不是得了潔淨才去把身體給祭司察看，乃是去的時候就潔淨了。聽見主的話時，明明大癩瘋還在身上，但主要他們先踏出信心的第一步。如同以色列人過約旦河要進入迦南地時，是等到抬約櫃祭司的腳踏入約旦河，約旦河的水才遠遠的停在亞當城，直到以色列百姓都從乾地上過去。今天我們也是同樣地，必須因信而向前，才能走在蒙福的路

band of ten lepers that met him there. Normally Jews had no dealing with the Samaritans at all and they would avoid passing through Samaria. They considered Samaritans a "mixed race" contaminated by foreign blood and idol worship.

There is a beautiful picture here. Though animosity existed between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus saw that they were men in need. He was drawn by their needs just as He once waited by Jacob's well in Samaria in order to give living water to a Samaritan woman.

Leprosy was one of the most dreadful diseases at that time. Lepers not only had to endure the physical sufferings, they also had to live in isolation, for it was a highly communicable disease. Lepers had to wear "mourning" clothes, kept their heads covered, and cry, "unclean, unclean" to give healthy others warning. They had to make it clear so that everyone could avoid them. They were an outcast from society as long as they lived.

These ten Lepers were a group of the most pitiful persons. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Even though they only knew Jesus as a Master, Jesus was full of mercy toward them. He truly wanted to heal them and deliver them from the painful situation.

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." The scriptures tell us "as they went, they were cleansed". When they heard what Jesus said, they still had Leprosy in their body, but they still obeyed and went. The Lord wanted them to have the first step of faith in order to be blessed.

At the time when Israelites were about to cross Jordan River to enter the land of Canaan, it was when the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water with their feet, the river stopped flowing as though held back by a dam, and piled up at the city of Adam. Today the same principle applies to us, we must make the step of faith first before walking on the blessed way.

上。

潔淨了的不是十個人麼。那九個在那裏呢？

這十個長大痲瘋的人都踏出了信心的第一步，也都蒙了大的憐憫。他們身上最可怕的疾病得了醫治。經祭司察看後即可回到家庭中與家人團聚，也可回到社會中恢復正常的生活，這對他們整個的生命前途是太大的改變。

這十個蒙醫治的人中有一個見自己已經好了、就回來大聲歸榮耀與神。又俯伏在耶穌腳前感謝祂。聖經特別點出這人是撒瑪利亞人，一個原被人所瞧不起的外族人，只有他回來歸榮耀與神。耶穌說、「潔淨了的不是十個人麼。那九個在那裏呢。」這句話說出了主裡面的驚訝與失望，也說出了整個人類的光景。多少人蒙了大的恩典，卻少有回來向主說一聲感謝、將榮耀歸與神的。我們今天是否也是屬於這九人中的一個呢？

在一個狂風暴雨的晚上，密西根湖中一艘蒸氣船撞上了另一艘船，蒸氣船在離伊利諾州岸邊一個小鎮約一哩處沉沒。船上三百九十三人中有二百七十九人被淹死。

有一個名叫愛德華的年輕人看見船難的情形，立刻跳入湖中游去救人。他把一個人拖到岸邊又立刻游回去救另一個人，來來回回總共救了十七個人，直到他極度疲累而昏倒。他的兩隻腳的神經受了嚴重的傷害，以至再也不能行走，終身必須坐在輪椅上。

在他過八十歲生日時，有人問他對那次船難最深刻的印象是甚麼。愛德華回答說，「十七個被救的人，沒有一

WERE NOT ALL TEN CLEANSED? WHERE ARE THE OTHER NINE?

All ten Lepers were able to move on with the first step of faith and were all received great mercy. Their terrible disease was completely healed and their body was cleansed. Now, they can unite with their family members again and they can go back to the society to have a normal life. What a great change to them.

Among those ten been healed, only one of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The bible specially pointed out that he was a Samaritan. The one who was despised most by others, became the one came back to glorify God. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" What a surprise and disappointment to our Lord, and this many times also reflects our situation. Many were blessed but very little come back and give praise to God. Are we also among those nine?

One stormy night in Lake Michigan, a side-wheeler steamboat was rammed by another boat. The steamboat sank just a mile offshore from the village of Winnetka, Illinois. Out of 393 passengers on board, 279 drowned.

A man named Edward Spencer after seeing the situation unfold plunged into the lake and swam to the drowning people. He towed one person to shore and went for another. In all, he brought seventeen people to safety. However, the strain on this young man caused him to collapse. The nerves in his legs were so completely destroyed that he could never walk again. He was an invalid wheel chair victim for his entire life.

On his eightieth birthday, someone asked him to relate his most vivid memory of that dreadful day. He replied, "Not one of the seventeen returned to

個回來向我說聲謝謝的。」

我們可否想像主的感受，當主付上自己生命的代價，將我們從死亡中拯救回來，卻沒有人將感謝歸給祂。

因感恩得著更大的福份

主接著就對那人說、「起來走罷。你的信救了你了。」十個人都得著了外面的祝福，但是只有這一個回來感恩的人得著了更大的福份。主何等地盼望我們能明白，祂所要給我們最好的福份就是祂的自己，我們所能得著最好的恩典也是主的自己。如果我們只是得著外面的祝福與恩典，卻沒有得著主的生命，我們的損失是何等地大呢。

主赦免了在行淫時被抓到的婦人，主告訴她，「從此不要再犯罪了」，主是把一個不犯罪的生命賜給這個婦人。主醫治了血漏的婦人，主跟她說，「平平安安的去罷」，主是把真實平安的生命賜給這個婦人。

「你的信救了你了」，知道感恩的人在信心上又往前跨了一步。所得的拯救由暫時的成為永遠的，由今世的成為永世的。每一次我們遇見了主的大愛，聖靈開啟我們，看見自己實在是個蒙恩的罪人，就會那樣歡喜地俯伏在耶穌腳前感謝祂。

獻上感恩的心

在路加福音這一段聖經中，至少顯出三方面我們當常常感謝神。

一、感謝神的大愛

聖經中大痲瘋這個病特別是說到罪的污穢，在聖潔的神眼中，我們都如

thank me."

Can you imagine what the Lord feels like when we show Him little gratitude for what He did for us?

RECEIVE GREATER BLESSINGS THROUGH THANKSGIVING

Then Jesus said to the returned one, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." All ten of them received the healing blessing, yet only one that returned received a greater blessings. Our Lord wants us to know that the best blessing He can give to us is Himself, and the best grace is Himself too. If we only receive the outward blessings and graces, but do not obtain the life of Christ, how great our loss is.

Lord pardoned the woman caught in the act of adultery and told her "sin no more". He wanted to give to her the life that could not sin. Lord healed the woman with twelve years internal bleeding and told her "go in peace". He wanted to give her the life of true peace.

"Your faith has made you well." Those who with grateful heart will move forward in their steps of faith. The blessings received will change from temporal to eternal, from this life to the life to come. Every time when we meet with the great love of Lord and realize that we are sinners saved by grace, we will throw ourselves at Jesus' feet and thank Him.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

We shall give thanks to God in the following three aspects as indicated in the scriptures quoted above.

1. Give thanks for the great love of God

Leprosy specially indicates the filthiness of sin in the Bible. In the eyes of holy God, we all like lepers full of sin and filth. However, as the Lord loved those lepers, He loves us too; as the Lord had mercy on

長了大麻瘋一般地污穢可怕。但是主如何愛這十個長大麻瘋的人，神也同樣地愛我們；主如何憐憫這十個長大麻瘋的人，神也同樣地憐憫我們。因著愛、神捨了祂懷中的獨生愛子；因著愛、主捨了天上榮耀的寶座，來就近並拯救我們。

二、感謝神的潔淨

主不單愛那十個長大麻瘋的人，主也醫治了他們；主不單憐憫那十個長大麻瘋的人，主也潔淨了他們。主在十架親身擔當了我們的罪，為我們流出祂寶貴的血，赦免我們一切的罪，洗淨我們生命的污穢，叫我們能與神和好。

你曾否念過十架故事，
耶穌在上捨命，
主寶血從祂肋旁流出，
罪債為你還清？

你曾否念過主仰望天說，
「成了」，是為你？
你曾否對主說，
「感謝主，因你為我捨己」？

三、感謝神的親近

難道我們的神真的那麼需要蒙恩人的感謝嗎？其實神何等地盼望我們回來感謝祂，是在等我們來親近祂。我們有沒有想過，我們的神是何等孤單的神，祂深處有一個極深的渴望，就是祂的兒女樂意來感謝祂、親近祂。我們親近祂、祂就必親近我們。無論是在順境中或是在逆境中，我們都當將感謝為祭，獻給我們的神。

有一位小女孩在過馬路時被車撞成重傷。當醫生由手術室出來時，小女孩

those lepers, He has mercy on us as well. Because of love, God gave His only begotten Son to us; because of Love, Jesus forsake His glorious throne in heaven and came to this filthy world to save us.

2. Give thanks for the cleansing of God

The Lord not only loved those lepers, but He also healed them. The Lord not only had mercy on those lepers, but He also cleansed them. Christ personally carried the load of our sins in His own body when He died on the cross. The power of His blood can pardon all of our sins and cleanse all of our filth so we can reconcile with God.

*Have you read the story of the Cross,
Where Jesus bled and died.
Where your debt was paid by His precious
blood
That flowed from His wounded side.*

*Have you read that He looked to heaven
And said, "It is finished"?
Have you ever said,
"I thank Thee, Lord,
For giving Thy life for me"?*

3. Give thanks for the fellowship of God

Does our Lord really need our thanksgiving? Actually, He expects us to come back to thank Him because He is waiting to have fellowship with us. Have we ever thought about our God as a lonely God? He has a strong desire to have His children come close to Him and willingly appreciate what He has done. When we draw close to God, God will draw close to us. We shall offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving to our God, regardless in smooth or in difficult circumstances.

There was a little girl seriously injured by a car while she was crossing the road. When the doctor came out of the operation room with a very serious face, a hymn was sounding in her father's heart,

的父親看見了醫生臉上嚴肅的表情，忽然他裡面唱出一首詩歌，「獻上感恩的心，'''」醫生很沉重地向他報告了最壞的消息，我們弟兄裡面的詩歌卻沒有停下來，仍然繼續地唱著：

獻上感恩的心，
歸給至聖全能神，
因祂賜下獨生子主耶穌基督。
如今軟弱者已得剛強，
貧窮者已成富足，
都因為主已成就了大事。
感恩，感恩。

摘自十一月十九日主日信息

“ Give thanks with a grateful heart, ...” Then the doctor told him the bad news. However, the hymn in that father's heart didn't stop. It continued to sing:

*Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy one,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say,
“I am strong”,
let the poor say, “I am rich”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, Give thanks.
.....*

11/19/2001 Sunday Message