

25 Nov 2012: Preached by Elder John Leong Kit Hoong

Topic: **Thanksgiving Sunday - Go Thy Way**

Scripture Text: Luke 17:11-19; Prov 11:30

1. In the story of the 10 lepers that were healed and only 1 came back to Jesus to praise Him, we realize that very few people really have a grateful and thankful heart to God.

2. From the 9 lepers, we learn that an ungrateful heart is a hopeless heart. They received the gift and benefit of healing but forgot the Giver, Christ himself. They had their prayers answered but forgot the God who answered their prayers, Jesus Christ. They obeyed the law to see the priest to be declared clean but forgot the law-Giver, Jesus Christ.

3. Because of their ungrateful heart, these 9 lepers showed that they did not have true faith and were still spiritually lost and in hopelessness. Although they have temporary physical healing but the end of their lives is still eternal condemnation in the lake of fire.

4. From the Samaritan leper, we can learn what it is to have a grateful heart. He came back to Jesus immediately knowing he was healed. He was not persuaded by his other friends to see the priest first. He knew the first thing is to thank Jesus. He came in humility and worship. He came with passion to thank the Lord with a loud voice. He also made no criticism of others when Jesus asked him where were his 9 other friends.

5. Jesus knew this Samaritan leper is the only one with true faith with eternal life. He told him to go his way. The Samaritan leper is to go back to his friends and family to tell what Jesus had done to him and how Jesus had shown him compassion. A grateful heart is a witnessing heart. When we have true thanksgiving to our Saviour Jesus Christ, we will go to the world to win souls. This is the wise thing to do as a believer. We will see the harvest is plenteous as Jesus saw it (Matt 9:37) and we will also desire to be the few labourers to share the Gospel to the unsaved.