

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Title: Thanksgiving is More Than Skin Deep

Text: Luke 17:11-19

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WARM-UP

Can you tell a story about a time in life when you didn't learn to "be thankful for what you **have**" until it was gone and then you "longed for what you once **had**?"

DISCUSSION

God has blessed us far more than we realize. The story of the ten lepers who were all healed can teach us a profound lesson about gratitude. We are mostly "skin-deep" in our gratitude. It is essential for our lives to understand how to respond with thanksgiving to God's amazing blessings. There is only one way to do this - to cultivate a thankful heart. This transforms our gratitude from our skin to our hearts.

1. What do you think the lepers expected when they called out to Jesus for mercy? Food, shelter, clothing, or actual healing? (17:13)
2. What is the significance of the lepers showing themselves to the priests? (17:14)
3. Why does Luke make the point that the lepers weren't healed until they started to obey Jesus' command? (17:14)
4. What do you think it is in the thankful leper's heart that caused him to pivot in gratitude back toward Jesus? (17:15-16)
5. What was Jesus' attitude toward the thankful leper - and then toward the other nine lepers? (17:17-18)
6. In the phrase "Your faith has saved you," (17:19) is Jesus speaking of the leper's physical healing, or his spiritual salvation, or both? What do you think the other nine lepers received from Jesus that day?
7. You might need to ponder this final question longer than your group time: What would you have this evening if all you had was what you gave thanks for yesterday?