

Thank-U I'm Thankful Not Entitled

For the next several lessons, we will all consider ourselves enrolled in the University of Thanksgiving. We will find out, what it means to be truly thankful. Hopefully we can matriculate from gratitude, through appreciation and into a heart of thanksgiving. After all, thanksgiving is not a day. It's a lifestyle.

Luke 17:11-19 (NLT)

11 As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria.

12 As he entered a village there, ten men with leprosy stood at a distance,

13 crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

14 He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy.

15 One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!"

16 He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine?"

18 Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

19 And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you."

In this story, we find Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. Ten men came up to him that had “**Leprosy.**” It was a terrible disease that ate away at the skin. In the late stages it would even eat away at the bone, often causing limbs to fall off. If you had it, you couldn’t be around other people.

They made their way to Jesus and cried out, “Jesus, have mercy on us. Jesus, heal us.” Jesus said, “Go show yourselves to the priest.” As they walked in obedience, they were healed. It’s amazing that when we do what He says, our lives get better. The one who wasn’t a Jew, realized that Jesus had healed him. He ran back to Jesus to thank him for what had been done. Jesus was astounded. He asked, “Where are the other 9?” We can imagine him replying, “I don’t know, Jesus. You didn’t have to heal me. But, I’m mighty glad you did.” Jesus says, “Go your way, your faith has made you well (whole). **Everything that he lost was restored because he was thankful not entitled.**

With this in mind, let us examine: **I’m Thankful Not Entitled**

1 Timothy 6:12 (NASB)

12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- 1. My _____ and not my _____ influence my thankfulness.**

When you’re truly thankful for something, you use it. When you like your bike, you ride it. When you appreciate your home, you take care of it. We can all be thankful that God has given us a weapon that can cause an immediate turn around in any situation. As a matter of fact, He so well equipped us, that He said we are to “live” by it. This gift is so great, that without it, we cannot please God.

Proverbs 22:6 (AMP)

6 Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God’s wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

- 2. My family is _____ the order of God.**

God is so great that He doesn't require that we understand or even agree to be thankful. A heart of thanksgiving and appreciation will cause you to obey simply because God said so. **God needs somebody to be the example.** Contrary to popular belief, God has not changed His standard. When we are thankful for his ways, we will always follow his order. God's order: **(GOD, JESUS, HUSBAND, WIFE, CHILDREN)**

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (AMP)

4 He who watches the wind [waiting for all conditions to be perfect] will not sow [seed], and he who looks at the clouds will not reap [a harvest].

3. My finances are _____ to the direction of God.

We can't even be thankful, until we know, who to thank. You and I must recognize that we don't have a thing that God didn't give us anyway. That's why He is able to command and instruct us as to what to do with what He gave us. **When I'm thankful and not entitled, I realize that finances are just a tool. THE MANUFACTURER HAS PERMISSION TO TELL ME HOW TO USE THE TOOL.**

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (NASB)

28 "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

2 All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God:

4. My favor is a byproduct of my _____.

Favor is always guaranteed to those who qualify through obedience. Favor is not normal. It is the exception to the rule. Throughout the Bible, we see people who were granted uncommon favor. There is a key word in the scripture. It is "IF." The will of God is not automatic. We must qualify with the "IF." **IF YOU OBEY, HE'LL BLESS YOU. IF YOU'RE THANKFUL HE'LL GIVE YOU SOME MORE TO THANK HIM FOR. IF YOU'RE FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, HE'LL GIVE YOU MANY THINGS.**

Matthew 18:21-22 (NASB)

21 Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus *said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

5. My _____ stems from my gratitude for being forgiven.

Often, we don't realize that everybody needs forgiveness. Thankful people realize that it's more damaging to them to continue to hold onto unforgiveness, than to let go and move on. None of us are deserving of forgiveness. But, God loves us so much, that He forgave us all.

THANKFUL PEOPLE REALIZE THAT GOD FORGAVE ME, I MUST FORGIVE THEM...IF I DON'T HE CAN'T...I'M THANKFUL HE DID!!

To be truly thankful and not entitled means to understand that everything God has done for us was out of love and not owed to us. When we grasp this, thanksgiving will become our lifestyle.