

The title for today's message is: ***Giving thanks and praise to God every day?***

Jesus said: ***“Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”***

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

It's hard to find balance in our lives, isn't it? Spending time at work versus spending time at home. How do you balance it all?

There's no question, both are necessary. Yet we struggle for that balance. And when we do find balance, it's hard to maintain that balance.

Most of the time, we lean too far one way, or the other, either we work too much, or not enough.

Either we're too busy doing chores at home, or we neglect them too often. Making it easy to develop bad habits, and live an unbalanced life.

One more area we need balance, our Christian life? Do you have a balanced relationship with God?

For many Christians, a lack of balance is a problem. Today, as we focus on God's Word, we see what living a balanced Christian life means.

We will find motivation, comfort, and direction as we seek to glorify God with our lives.

Here in our text for today, were told about Jesus meeting some rather unbalanced people.

Here Jesus is traveling to Jerusalem for the last time, as He comes closer to the time when He will be betrayed, and crucified on a cross.

Traveling along the border between Samaria and Galilee, Jesus entered a village where ten men with leprosy noticed Him, and called out to Him.

In those days Leprosy was a form of visible cancer, you had to leave your family, society and live in caves with others who had Leprosy.

The law was if anyone comes near you, you had to shout out “Unclean!”, “Unclean!” Warning people to stay away.

It was a terrible disease, a long, and lonely way to die. Now, Luke says there were ten lepers, living out in caves just outside the village.

They stayed at a distance, as they were supposed to do, but they didn’t call out unclean, unclean, rather they said: **“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”**

Here they call Jesus “master.” Indicating they must have heard about His power to heal. And some may have even thought He was the Messiah.

Jesus answered them, He said, **“Go and show yourselves to the priests.”** And as they went, they were cleansed.

Yes, Jesus healed them just like that and by simply speaking a few words. **Go and show yourselves to the priests.**

Look in those days a priest was not only the spiritual leader but also doubled as a doctor.

Only a priest could determine a man who had leprosy, to now be clean, another words healed, allowing the man to re-enter society.

Now Leprosy Isn't the focus of our lesson today, no, its about, something we are all guilty of.

It's about when the ten lepers were healed they ran to the nearest priest, except for one. He returned to Jesus and praised him in a loud voice.

He then threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him. What's so unusual about this, is that the man who returned to thank Jesus, was a Samaritan.

Remember, in the Jewish culture, the Samaritans were bad people. For the Jews hated the Samaritans, because they weren't spiritually connected.

Now upon the Samaritan's return, Jesus saw another opportunity to teach. Jesus asked the Samaritan: ***“Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”***

The others failed to. This my friends is what this passage is all about, This it's what we find ourselves not doing, or at least not often enough.

It's our failure to give God thanks for all He has, and is, doing for us. Yes, there was a lack of balance. Nine of the ten lepers just took off.

They didn't think about anyone but themselves, they received a great gift from God, but they didn't praise nor thank God for their healing.

All they could think was; Let's go to the priest. Let's go back to our families. Let's see if we can get our old jobs back, who knows what else.

They were so focused on those things, they failed to give praise to God. Yes, we too struggle with this as well.

We too ask God for all kinds of things, yet we forget to give Him thanks and praise for what He has done for us.

Look, we have our jobs, our families and our friends. We have many good things going on in our lives, things that God wants us to enjoy.

My friends, we all suffer from something worse than Leprosy. We suffer every day with sin.

And it causes us to be so self-absorbed, so focused on our lives, even after we become Christians, that we fail to balance our lives with thanksgiving and worship.

Look, you, and I are much like those 9 lepers running down the hill, forgetting to fall to our knees and worshiping God. So, what are we to do?

What does God want us to do, when we realize our spiritual leprosy? He wants to hear us calling out saying: ***“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”***

Heal me and take away my sin. Give me the power to lead a Christian life. And say; Jesus, Master, have mercy on me!

We say that at the beginning of every worship service, when we confess our sins to God. We say: “Lord, have mercy”. And how does Jesus respond?

He takes away all our sin with His precious blood which He shed on a cross.

And that my friends is why we worship Him, giving Him thanksgiving and praise. Just like the Samaritan did in our text.

Sure, he was going to go to the priest too, and then go home, go back to his family and friends. Maybe even get his old job back.

But first, he thanked God, and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to him:
“Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Here Jesus points out this mans faith. That day, that man was not only healed of a skin disease.

He was also forgiven of his sins, and made a child of God, just like you and me.

May God bless each one of us with a heart that seeks to glorify Him, each and every day.

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.