

“THANK GOD MINISTRY”

THESIS: Let’s Thank God

TEXT: Luke 17:7-19

OPEN: (*Story of thankful inventor Samuel Morse from book “Eating Problems For Breakfast” by Tim Hansel*)

In **Luke 17:7-19** let’s discover how supplication (prayer) and service makes for a thank God ministry.

Luke 17:7-10 “*Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? ⁸Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? ⁹Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”*

It’s true that God blesses obedience (*Isaiah 64:4-5*) but, at the same time, He does not owe us anything even if we do what’s right. We’re merely servants/managers of the life, relationships, resources, and talents He entrusts to us. Are you a good investment for the Lord and His resources?

Romans 11:35-36 “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.”

1. **Glory** (Greek: *doxa*) means splendor, brilliance, or praise
 - A. *Godet*: “If man could really be the first to do something for God, he would make God his debtor” (*Rienecker’s Linguistic Key To the Greek NT*, p. 374)
 - B. We should humble ourselves before the praise and brilliance of God by realizing that He owns everything and that He owes us absolutely nothing. He is *not* in debt to us or anyone in any way.
 1. **Job 41:11** “Who has a claim against Me that I must pay? Everything under Heaven belongs to Me.”
 - a. **Claim against Me** (Hebrew: *qadam*) means to confront.
 1. We should never shake our fist towards God demanding anything from Him. He owes us nothing even when we do something good.
 2. **Application**: Renew your mind in the glory (brilliance) of God. Let’s spend more time thinking about Him and His Word rather than ourselves and our way. If we do think about ourselves then let’s be humble about it.
 - A. **Romans 12:3** “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”
 - B. **Philippians 2:3** “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”
3. **Insight from John Maxwell**: “Success isn’t a lottery. You don’t stop at the convenience store on the way home, buy a ticket, and then wait for success to strike. Nor is it a place you find when you reach some magical time of life. The way to achieve success is to do it one day at a time. You’ll change your life when you change something you do daily. The secret of your success is found in your daily routine. The smallest act of obedience is better than the greatest intention.”
 - A. **1 Peter 4:10-11** “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”
 1. No Christian should ever say, “I don’t have any talents” because Scripture is clear that through the Holy Spirit, God gifts us for His glory.
 - a. **1 Corinthians 12:7** “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”
 2. The Lord saves us for the hereafter so that in the here and now we may serve Him for His glory and the good of others.

- a. **Illustration** (*card from a community widow to PVCC*): “I am so thankful to you folks for helping me got my broken steps fixed. I know it took a lot of work and time for this project and I am so thankful. The gentlemen were so nice and did a wonderful job. I pray God will bless all of you for your kindness to me. Thanks again. Love, blessings, & prayers—*Billie.*”

Luke 17:11-13 *"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!'"*

Historical Insight: Leprosy was a dreadful skin disease. A leper's bronchial tubes would usually become dry thus making the voice harsh and squeaky. Lepers were to remain outside the city and were not to come close to people for fear of spreading the disease. They were required to yell out to approaching individuals "Unclean!"

Luke 17:14-16 *"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."*

Historical Insight: In Biblical times Jews and Samaritans didn't regard one another very well. When things would go against the Jews, the Samaritans normally aligned themselves with whoever was in power. However, when all was well with the Jews, the Samaritans staked a racial and religious connection to them. The Samaritans had a different version of the first five books of the O.T. and even had their own temple on Mt. Gerazim instead of Jerusalem. (Everett Ferguson, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, p. 423-424).

Luke 17:17-19 *"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.'"*

Praise (Greek: *doxa*) means honor resulting from a good judgment or opinion.

Quote from Thaddeus of Vitovnica: "Joy is thankfulness, and when we are joyful, that is the best expression of thanks we can offer the Lord, Who delivers us from sorrow and sin" (*Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*).

Hebrews 12:28 “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...”

Let's remember to honor the Lord especially when we've asked and received from Him. Thanksgiving is a form of worship. The other nine should have been grateful like the one Samaritan and Wilma Melendez:

Illustration: (“*A Prayer To Lift A Broken Heart*” by Wilma Melendez)

2 Corinthians 9:10-15 “Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.”

CLOSE: Let’s forget about ourselves and remember others by serving them—that’s “Thank God Ministry.”