

# Luke 17:11-19. the Ten Lepers.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of gratitude towards God, illustrated through the story of the ten lepers, particularly focusing on the one who returned to give thanks.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 107:1, Luke 17:17, John 3:16, Romans 1:21, Colossians 3:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Topics:** "Gratitude To God", "Thankfulness And Mercy"

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## Description

Favell Lee Mortimer preaches about the importance of gratitude and thankfulness towards God for His blessings and deliverance. Using the story of the ten lepers, she highlights the ingratitude of the nine who did not return to give thanks, contrasting it with the Samaritan who displayed genuine gratitude despite societal prejudices. She emphasizes that even among the most ignorant or outcast, there are hearts prepared by God to love Him and receive His truth. Mortimer warns about the natural ungratefulness of the human heart, especially towards God's mercies, and the grave charge of not being thankful for the ultimate gift of God's Son, a crime even devils will not have to answer for.

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## Transcript

How touching are the words, "Where are the nine?" The Lord keeps an account of the number that he blesses, and he expects to see them at his feet, giving him thanks. He knows how many he has lifted up from the gates of death since the last setting sun. Some called on him yesterday out of the depths of distress; he heard them, and today disease is subdued, and danger is averted. Parents who feared yesterday that their absent children had met with some fatal accident, have heard today that they are safe. People plunged in deep poverty, who feared that they should soon perish with famine, or pine in a prison, have received gifts today that have extricated them from all their troubles. Are those people today pouring forth their thanks at their Redeemer's feet? It is to be feared that the Lord still says, "Where are the nine; the nine hundred, the nine thousand, the nine million, that I have delivered from distress?"

We are astonished at the ingratitude of the lepers; but no doubt they had some plausible excuses to make for their conduct. The Lord had said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. They still followed the direction that had been given them, and pursued their way. But gratitude ought to have turned their steps back again. If they delayed to go to Jesus, they might never enjoy another opportunity of thanking him; for he was on his way, and would soon be gone. One, however, followed not the example of his companions. When he felt the glow of health in his veins, and saw the hue of health upon his hands, he did not hesitate how to act--he returned alone, and with a loud voice and in

an humble attitude, glorified God. And this man was a Samaritan! He belonged to an ignorant nation, to a nation whom the Jews despised, and whose religion the Lord disapproved. This instance shows that among the most ignorant there are some whose hearts God has prepared to love him. Those who visit the abodes of misery in crowded cities find some of the poor outcasts ready to receive the truth. Missionaries find some in heathen lands who, as soon as they hear the Gospel, embrace it. But there are only a few in this state. The mass of mankind in all countries care for the gifts, and not at all for the giver. The human heart is naturally ungrateful. Men are disposed to be ungrateful to their fellow-creatures. They feel humbled under the weight of great obligations, and seek an excuse for not being thankful. But they are far more ungrateful to God than they are to any other being. His mercies are considered matters of course. People like to imagine that all things happen by chance, and that God does not trouble himself with their little concerns. By these ideas, they relieve themselves from the burden of gratitude.

There is a charge that will be brought against sinners hereafter, which will involve them in the deepest guilt. It is this--they knew that the Father had given his only Son to die for them, and they were not thankful. Even devils will not have this black crime to answer for. Are there as many as one in ten in this Christian land who have heartily thanked God for the gift of his Son? who have thanked him as heartily for it, as they would thank a fellow-creature who had saved their lives at the risk of his own? or even as heartily as they would a friend for showing them common kindness and hospitality?

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