

## THANKSGIVING 2016

*Opening Text: "And Jesus said, were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?" Luke 17:17.*

**INTRODUCTION.** -- This is one of the saddest utterances that ever fell from the Lips of Jesus. Jesus loves all of us, and like everyone who truly loves, He desired love in return. When those He helped returned, as the poor Samaritan, with thanksgiving, it filled His heart with joy; when those He helped forgot to return thanks, it filled His heart with sorrow.

*Luke 17:11-19 (NLT)*

*<sup>11</sup> As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria.*

*<sup>12</sup> As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance,*

*<sup>13</sup> crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"*

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

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

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

*<sup>17</sup> Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine?"*

*<sup>18</sup> Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"*

*<sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you."*

The day should be pre-eminently what it professes to be, a day of thanksgiving to God. Everyday should always be a day of thanksgiving to God. Not just one day as most celebrate or do they?

### **I. The Duty.**

1. We are commanded again and again to give thanks. Psalm 100:4; Ephesians 5:4; Colossians 3:15,17.

2. The rendering of thanks unto God is more acceptable to Him than costly sacrifices. Psalm 69:30-31.

3. The early Christians gave themselves continually to praise and thanksgiving. Acts 2:46-47.

4. Thanksgiving was habitual with Jesus Christ, our example. John 11:41; Matthew 11:25.

5. Giving thanks unto the Father, is one of the inevitable results of being filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18-20.

6. Thanksgiving is a necessary accompaniment for prevailing prayer. Philippians 4:6.

### **II. How to Render Acceptable Thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:20.**

*Ephesians 5:20 (NLT)*

*<sup>20</sup> And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. It should be "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
2. It should be "to the Father."
3. It should be constant.
4. It should be for all things.

### **III. For What to Return Thanks Today.**

We have today many causes for thanksgiving, national and individual. Specify some of them. Each of us should go alone with God sometime today, and think over the general blessings that we have received with others, as a nation, and the specific causes that there are for thanksgiving in our national life and the individual blessings that we have received.