

It's Not Because He Owes Me – Bible Study Lesson

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 the story we read, 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?” Entitlement caused the other 9 to miss their opportunity to thank God.

Jesus said, "Get up and go on your way. Your faith has made you well (whole). With this in mind, let's examine: **It's Not Because He Owes Me.**

Entitled: believing oneself to be inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment.

Thankful: the expression of gratitude, especially to God without consideration of merit.

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.

It should be faith and not circumstances that influence our thankfulness. When we're thankful for something, we use it and take care of it. God has given us a weapon that can cause an immediate turnaround in any situation. As a matter of fact, He so well equipped us, that He said we are to "live" by it. FAITH causes promises to be released in our lives. When we exercise it, what we believe for comes to fruition.

1. I exercise the faith He gave me to thank Him in advance.

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.

God needs somebody to be an example. Contrary to popular belief, God has not changed His standard. When we're thankful for God's ways, we follow His ways. All of us want God's will for our lives. However, many of us want His will, without His ways. **We can be thankful for the peace God's ways provide.**

2. I teach the family He gave me to appreciate everything we have.

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].

When we're truly thankful, our finances are always subject to the direction of God. We can't even be thankful until we know who to thank. We must realize that we don't have a thing that God didn't give us. That's why He should be able to command and instruct us as to what to do with what He gave us. When we're thankful, we realize that finances are just a tool. **THE MANUFACTURER HAS PERMISSION TO TELL US HOW TO USE THE TOOL.**

3. I use the money He gave me to further the works of the Kingdom.

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:

Favor is 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 keyword in the scripture. It is "IF." The will of God is not automatic. We must qualify with the, "IF."

4. I experience uncommon favor as a byproduct of my thankfulness and obedience.

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.

Often, we don't realize that everybody needs forgiveness. Thankful people realize that it's more damaging to us to continue to hold it against them, than to let go and move on. Thankful people realize that just like God forgave them, they need to forgive those who have wronged them. **WE MUST FORGIVE THEM...IF WE DON'T GOD CAN'T FORGIVE US.**

5. I display forgiveness because I'm grateful to have been forgiven myself.

We must remember that even though everything we have comes from God. We are not entitled to any of it. A heart of thanksgiving will always remind us: **It's Not Because He Owes Me.**