

6:23). Without the intervention of Christ on their behalf, they had no hope. We were the same.

Look at Ephesians 2:11-13. Can you identify with these lepers? When they cried out unto Jesus, He heard them and...

2) They were all cleansed .

Notice in verse 14 when He saw them, our Lord looked upon them and had compassion. We know that because it says He responded to their call. He heard their cry. It reminds us of Jeremiah 33:3 and Romans 10:13.

But notice Jesus told them in verse 14 to "Go show yourselves to the priest." Why? Because His command demanded that they put their faith in Him. Faith is an action word. They must show by action they believe Him.

Notice is says "as they went they were cleansed." It didn't happen until they went. Their first step of faith brought cleansing. Faith in Christ brings immediate cleansing. And why go to the priests? What hope do you think they had in the priests? Do you think they might have already cried out to the priests for help? The priests were hopeless as well. The religion of the day could do nothing for their state of hopelessness. Jesus wanted the lepers to see that but He also wanted the priest to see it as well.

The same is true today. Religion cannot help you in your hopeless state. In the incurable disease of sin the priest cannot heal you and he cannot cure you. But if you will take the first step of faith, you will experience immediate cleansing through Jesus Christ. After they saw that they were cleansed, there was only...

3) The one who was Thankful .

Upon seeing that he was healed, he came back to Jesus. Out of his thankfulness he glorified God with a loud voice. That's what happens when you are truly thankful. You can't help but get loud.

Not only did the leper glorify God with a loud voice but he fell down at the feet of Jesus and gave thanks. Sometimes the only true place of thanksgiving is at the feet of Jesus. Why was this leper thankful?

- He had been hopeless, now he had hope.
- He had been homeless, now he could go home.
- He had been rejected, now he would be received.
- He had been basically pronounced dead, now he was alive again.

We too should be able to see ourselves in this leper. We ought to be thankful for the cleansing power of Jesus in our lives just like the leper. There was one leper who was thankful but there was...

4) The nine who were Thankless .

Nine others had been cleansed but they went on their way. Even Jesus asked in verse 17 "where are the other nine?" This should be a wake call to us as the church. How many of us are like the nine lepers? Why didn't they come back?

Here are a few suggestions that I came up with and they reveal a whole lot about human nature.

- One waited to see if the cure was real.
- One waited to see if it would last.
- One said he would see Jesus later.
- One decided that he had never had leprosy.
- One said he would have gotten well anyway.
- One gave the glory to the priests.
- One said, "O, well, Jesus didn't really do anything."
- One said, "Any rabbi could have done it."

- One said, "I was already much improved."

Maybe they all ran home, to friends, families, etc., to share with them what had happened. We cannot speak for them, but we can look at the story and see what delighted Jesus. In verse 19 He said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." Jesus insinuated that the man's action had not resulted in healing, but had made him whole spiritually. He gave praise to Jesus for changing his life.

We all get so busy. We all make many excuses. We all try to rationalize. But the truly thankful people take time to come back to the one who cured them and gives thanks.

Conclusion

The fact that only one returned to offer thanksgiving has been considered by some as a picture of the church today. Some say that only one-tenth of the church is truly thankful. How can they make such a claim? Now, I'm not saying it is this way here, but some places statistically only 1/10th tithe out of their thankfulness and gratitude. Only 1/10th is involved in doing for the Lord. There are some gatherings where only 1/10th show up.

So the question for us is: Which are you today? Are you like the one thankful leper? Or are you part of the nine?

If you say, "I am like the one," then on what do you base that statement? Does the Lord see that by your actions? Are you faithful to your church in attendance? Do you not only tithe but give an offering to God? Are you involved in the planning and action of the ministry of your church?

The good news is that Jesus commends a thankful person. You can start today. Come to His altar today and express your thankfulness and give thanks to the Lord. He deserves our thanksgiving and praise.

Be the One of Ten!

Counterfeit Thanksgiving

A young, single attorney worked for a generous boss who gave all his employees a turkey each year at Thanksgiving. One year before the birds were handed out, some of his co-workers replaced his real turkey with one made of papier-mâché. To make the bogus bird look and feel genuine, they wrapped it in brown paper, weighted it with lead, and added a real turkey neck and tail. On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the attorney went to the company boardroom, picked up his assigned turkey, and thanked his boss for his job and the bird.

Later, on the bus home, the young man wondered what to do with his prize. As a bachelor, he couldn't possibly eat it all by himself. Before long, a rather worn-down, discouraged-looking man got on the bus and sat next to the attorney. As they talked, the young man learned that the stranger had spent the entire day job-hunting with no luck. The man had a large family, and was wondering what he would do about Thanksgiving the next day.

Suddenly the attorney was struck with an idea: Why not give his turkey to this man! But how? The fellow wasn't a freeloader and probably wouldn't accept charity. So the attorney asked, "How much money do you have?" When the man said just a couple of dollars, the attorney yelled "Sold!" and put the turkey in the stranger's lap. Moved to tears, the stranger later got off the bus and waved good-bye, thrilled that his family would have a turkey for Thanksgiving.

The next Monday, the attorney's friends were dying to know about the turkey. You can imagine their dismay and the young attorney's horror when they both learned what each had done. For a week, the attorney and his co-workers rode the bus searching for the stranger they had unintentionally wronged, but they never found him.

How rotten must that attorney have felt? What about the stranger? Can you imagine what he thought when he discovered the turkey was only a glob of paper? For all he knew, that attorney had intentionally sold him a fake. Was he right? No! But the circumstantial evidence seemed to indicate that he was.

Our entire nation celebrates Thanksgiving. Some celebrate by busily preparing food, watching football and gathering with family. These are great Thanksgiving celebrations. However, Christians have a greater blessing in the opportunity to give thanks to God. Whether people in this world want to recognize it or not, everything they own is given to them by the Lord and there is going to be a day when all will give an accounting. Be thankful that our God is not a "turkey" and His saving grace is not counterfeit.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Steven Buckley, Ken Nice,
Don Sharp, Fred Kerns

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Diversicare.....2:30 pm

No Evening Worship

Wednesday, November 25

Thanksgiving Celebration ... 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 26

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 29, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough,
Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters Alternate: Larry McKahan

Missions Study.....Noon

No Evening Worship

Wednesday, December 2

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 3

G Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will not have Sunday Evening Service here tonight or next Sunday evening.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will be meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 pm for a special Thanksgiving service. Plan to attend!

In Sympathy

We offer Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Margaret Dotson, who passed away Wednesday, November 18, 2015. Visitation will be this evening from 4-6 pm at Heaton Bowman with the funeral service being tomorrow at 10 am. Lunch will be served here at the church at 12:30 pm and all are welcome.

Diversicare Nursing Home

Today, November 22, 2015 at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Food Kitchen

We will serve Monday, December 7, at 5:30 pm. Please feel free to join us as we show the love of Christ and minister to those in need.

Patee Park Food Pantry Collection Day December 20

Donated items may be placed in the basket in the hallway. You may donate monetarily as well. Thank you for supporting this ministry of our church.

Missions Study

November 29 is our International Missions Study immediately following the morning service. Soup will be provided. Please bring finger foods, sandwiches and snacks to share.

Up-Coming Events

November 22 — Diversicare Service 2:30 pm

November 23 — Margaret Dotson Memorial—lunch at church

— No Sunday School Workers Meeting

November 26 — Thanksgiving Day (Office will be closed.)

November 29 — International Missions Study-Noon

November 29 — December 5—Week of Prayer for

International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 6 — Christmas Tea at the Lane's

December 7 — Food Kitchen

December 20 — Food Pantry Collection Day

For the Record-

Attendance: November 15, 2015

Sunday School.....	44
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	47
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	61
Children's Worship	N/A
Sunday Night	N/A
Wednesday Night	17

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 1,258.19

Offering Received by Mail:

November Counting Team:

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

November Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

November Birthdays:

07...Alva Lou Schottel
13...Shirley Wilson
14...Sam Hoover
14...Ann Riddle
16...Nancy McCamy
22...Linda Dotson
23...Floetta Conard
25...Maxine Ferbert
27...Linda Kerns

November Anniversaries

Bill and Donna Dunn
November 3, 1995
Jack and Flo Conard
November 4, 1956
John and Dottie Wildberger
November 23, 1962
Jim and Brigida Winans
November 28, 1975

Prayer Requests ...

Linda Dotson and Family
Family of Eleanor Becerra

-Brigida's mother
Maxine and George Ferbert
Bill Haskins—recovery
Joyce Izer—Praise the Lord for healing!
Stacy Gray—cancer treatment
Muriel Elder and Family
Linda Rails—Doris' Richardson's sister
Grant Schottel—advanced training
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Bob Barquist—cancer
Louanne Laurence—Joyce's Mother
Lester Buck Kathryn Beavers
LoLeta Middleton Dorothy Post
Allen Jennings Ann Riddle
Jim Winans Jozy Winans
Nellie Reynolds Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Lois Pace Susan Patten
Debbie Sands Sue Higgins
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Keon McKahan Dorothy Post
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...