

GCFSM SUNDAY

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GRATITUDE IN ACTION

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The Lord has been teaching us to be thankful for everything, even in small things. The Lord has been teaching us to be thankful that we can wake up and live another day; to be thankful for each day that we and our loved ones are healthy and free from sickness.; to be thankful for the place we call home and be safe amidst the ongoing pandemic; to be thankful that we can still taste the food we eat and breathe comfortably. These are things that we may have overlooked before, but now, we are grateful to God for all these things every day. For sure, it has developed in us an attitude of gratitude – and that is good! But, allow me to exhort further that it should not stop there. Yes, we should have an attitude of gratitude, but I believe we are also to put our gratitude in action. The question that begs to be asked therefore is - "Are we putting our gratitude in action?"

Jesus, having been asked by the ten lepers to have mercy on them and heal them, commanded the lepers to go to the priest since in those days the priest had the authority to declare them free from leprosy. They all went to the priest, which showed that all of them trusted Jesus that on their way to the priest, Jesus would miraculously heal them – and Jesus did! Surprisingly,

even though all ten got healed, only one came back. Jesus questioned where the other nine had gone, but more than anything, He commended the grateful Samaritan leper who came back and gave thanks to Jesus.

In this narrative, all trusted Jesus as they pleaded for mercy. All had faith in Jesus as they went to the priest. I also believe that all were thankful (because, who wouldn't?) that they had been healed. But, only one showed and expressed his thanksgiving. All had an attitude of gratitude, but only one put his gratitude in action. In the same way, I believe that all of us are recipients of God's mercy and grace every day. Having our prayers for protection and provision answered, we are all grateful. Therefore, it is good that we also respond and put our gratefulness into action just like the Samaritan leper. There are many ways to do so, but there are two important steps that we can learn from the grateful leper and should not miss.

First is to turn back to God. I do not mean to merely say "Thank you, Lord" at the moment the prayer is answered, though that is good too, but what I mean is that as we have taken time and prayed for our request, we also are to take our time to thank

God. We thank God for how he has moved and has shown favor in our prayer. Another thing that we can also take note of in the passage (Luke 17:11-19) is the phrase "he saw (emphasis mine) that he was healed". Just like the leper, I believe we should further see how blessed we are. Ask the Lord to open our eyes so that we may see all His blessings.

Second is to share our gratitude to others. In the narrative, it says that the lepers "lifted their voices" to Jesus as they asked Him to heal them. And, later on, it says there that the grateful leper was "praising God with a loud voice". Just as he made his prayer known to everyone, he made known to everyone that his prayer was answered. He just couldn't contain it. In the same way, we shouldn't also keep our thanksgiving to ourselves, but should share it to our families, our friends, our growth groups – to everyone. This is also a good way of cultivating the soil of the hearts of our pre-believing friends whom we are praying for to share the gospel to.

Have an attitude of gratitude, and put that gratitude in action! ✱