

On Thankfulness...

Don C Harris

Luke 17:17, "And Jesus answering said, **"Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?" "But where are the nine?"**"

Ten lepers got together one day and finding their opportunity, called out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." One leper was not an Israelite but, hiding among the nine he calculated that he would get in on the deal. The Jewish Master would not notice, he schemed, or ask for pedigrees and he would blend in and get a blessing just like these Jews. Much to their surprise and amazement, the Teacher granted their request.

Jesus, knowing the Law, said to them to go to the priest for pronouncement of cleanliness and as they went, the record says, they were cleansed. The Samaritan watched wide-eyed as the white scales fell from under his robe and out of his sleeves and his arms were clean and beautiful for the first time in years. This leper returned running. He thanked Jesus for cleansing him. Jesus looked at him and saw that it was not one of the Israelites to whom He was sent, but a man of a bastard culture, a land that worshiped a god named YHVH, but whose worship was far from true, and whose understanding was far from pure. He had but a vague idea what Jesus wanted him to do when he was asked to go to the priest. He was not allowed to even approach a priest. He just did as he was told. Now, overwhelmed with gratitude, he returned and thanked Jesus.

Jesus looked at his disciples and asked, **"Were there not ten cleansed? But... where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger?"** And he said unto him, **"Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."** (Luke 17:17-19)

Merely Healed

Here is a question for us, what made the others whole? Were they made whole, or were they merely healed? It is when we return and give thanks, it is when we realize our before and after condition, that our faith makes us whole. There are many who have bowed at an altar, many who have made professions of faith, prayed a prayer, even repented of sin, but few have fully realized our wonderful blessing and returned in humility to give thanks. This quality of gratitude is a missing ingredient in the soul salvaging process. We cannot teach thankfulness, we cannot put it into a tract as a step to salvation. We cannot demand appreciation, as it would become an act of

compliance instead of a spontaneous act of love.

However elusive unprompted gratitude may be, it is the point that our unworthiness occurs to us that becomes the point of our salvation and wholeness - not the time of our cleansing. The return to show gratitude is the visible indicator that a man has been adopted into the family of God - and that point is out of our control.

Many have been touched by Christ, many have been forgiven of Him, but few have been made whole. When it comes down to words on paper, it cannot be better said than,

"Many are called, but few are chosen."

There is a special message here to we who are Gentiles in the flesh. Do we fully realize that we have received cleansing by "hiding" among ungrateful Jews? Paul's comments on this matter are worthy of note.

"I say then, Have they [the Jews] stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles... For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in... ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their [the Jews] unbelief:" (Romans 11:11-30)

We have been called now to the feast that we did not, and yet do not deserve only because those who were called spurned their opportunity. If we have been called we must seek to be worthy of acceptance - at the very least we can be grateful.

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

Jesus used this phrase again when describing a man, invited to a wedding feast, who, when given a garment to wear, refused it for his own clothes. Here was a man invited in the place of ingrates, though unworthy, a man called, a man who answered the call, but he accepted the favor on his own terms. He wanted to participate in the festivities and food and wine at the expense of the wedding family, but he did not want to do it if cost him his identity to do so. In short, he was very ungrateful. "And he saith unto him, **Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?** And he was speechless."

He was promptly thrown out. **For many are called, but few are chosen.** (Matthew 22)

Another example was the story of the greedy workers who, after they worked all day wanted more than what they were hired to receive only because they saw others being paid the same for less work. Complaining to the husbandmen, they accused him of being unfair, though they received exactly what they agreed. They showed themselves *ungrateful*. Their wages were paid, but the last came before them. **"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."** (Matthew 20:16)

We need not only be called; we need to be chosen for our gratitude and our lack of complaint. We need to be faithful and thankful. Do we ever consider the sacrifice made for us, the invitation we have been given, or the miracle that has been bestowed on our behalf? Have we counted the price paid by Christ for us as dear, precious and undeserved? Do we wear, without complaint, the beautiful garment we have been given, to appear to the world as one of His own? Do we try to hold to our own way, or withhold faithful service until benefits equal our idea of fairness?

If we want to be counted with Him, there is only one way. The verse in Revelation lists the attributes of those who are with Christ, "... for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, AND chosen, AND faithful." (Revelation 17:14)

If as many who were cleansed were grateful enough to serve, our efforts of

evangelism may reveal better statistics. Many people have professed faith in Christ because He once touched them. *Most of our country, as well as a large portion of the world, has been to Christ and asked for cleansing, but only one in, perchance, ten have returned to thank Him, to serve Him, to honor Him... but... "Where are the nine?"*

Primarily excerpted from "The Questions of Jesus" by Don C Harris.

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From Don's Desk . . .

This last year had many trials, the most recent of which is an eye injury which damaged my left eye resulting in a condition like traumatic glaucoma. Treatment is still underway and the hope is that recovery will allow surgery in a couple of months to restore my vision. Now, I must *slow down*. This is not an easy assignment when there is so much work to do. Indeed, the harvest is plenty but the laborers are few (...and one laborer now frequently looks like a pirate!)

The 6" diameter tree that hit me easily could have taken my life, if it had not broken over my head. (Yes, there is now irrefutable proof of my hard head!) You know, or should know, I am not one who finds miracles in everyday life to be proof of God's notice. I am determined to believe Him, trust Him and love Him - no matter what trials may come. I encourage you to do the same.

It is impossible for TRI Ministries in its present state (equipment, staff and finances) to take advantage of all the opportunities offered to us. Here's a sample of the Ministry Outreach Projects:

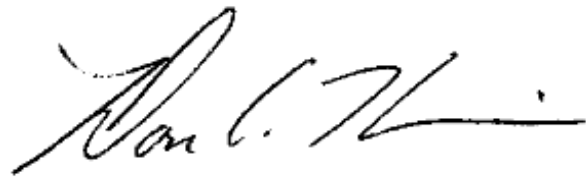
- TELEVISION:
 - TRI is in negotiations with a local television network to air "Think Red Ink Ministries Presents" programs.
 - Hearty Counsel 2-hour weekly televised call-in program.
 - TRI TV promotion to increase online viewers.
 - TRI ROKU Channel.
- RADIO: RLE-Edition Rewind! a 15 Min Radio program requested by a National Christian network.
- BOOKS: The publication of all TRI books in eBook formats. Additionally, as I am able, I am writing a new fiction book during my recovery time.
- TRI APP: Promotion to increase awareness, downloads and shares on Apple and

Android devices.

I'll seek the LORD as to the most efficient and prudent use of the Ministries' assets. Please do the same, if led to do so. All these projects require much time and attention (*even more now because of my present health issues*), therefore I will be recording fewer live shows on the radio. (LIVE shows will be announced in the Chat room, in Facebook and via Twitter.)

May I encourage you to not let the "Rewind" status stop you from listening and inviting your friends and family. "Red Letter Edition-LIVE!" radio show is the "daily bread" that can feed the world - one person at a time. New registrants continue to be arrive and to visit our [ThINKer's chat room](#). I hope you have heard the on-air encouraging reports and call-ins from recent LIVE shows. It is such joy to reach out and find someone who is "lost and looking" and willing to change. To have your support, to hear testimonies of life changes, and words of encouragement makes it possible to endure and continue.

Friendly,



ThINKers' **Thoughts!**

...Hey Don. . .

It was a relief to me to hear your live broadcast today. Although I missed the first few minutes, it was sad news that you mentioned an accident that you could no longer drive safely, and that there are upcoming eye surgeries. On a recent Sabbath, you talked about Job's endurance rather than "the patience of Job." This must surely be what you are experiencing and my heart reaches out to you. You questioned if the love and work of your heart and soul were accomplishing its purpose. Our adversary must view you and your work in a different way. It seems he is doing everything he can to thwart your ministry. Your love, work, convictions and faithfulness are deeply appreciated.

~ ThINKer in ID

Just a quick note to thank you for the work you do and to encourage you and let you know we're still here and listening. I believe today's show was live (Nov. 14, 2016.) We encourage our family and friends to tune in as well, either by app or phone. People don't relish the responsibility that comes with knowledge of the truth though, and we don't get many takers. But those who love truth know it when they hear it. You're the real deal, Don. Keep on keeping on, that's where I'm at. ... I can still get around and as long as that's true, I'm going to keep moving. We'll keep you and TRI in our prayers and hope that our God blesses and keeps you. In Jesus' name. Sincerely

(sans wax [I'm listening])

~ ThINKer in MO

Keep up the good job! We love you.

~ ThINKer in CA

I thank YHWH for introducing you into my life! You are so right in saying that we - believers in Messiah - need PREACHING & not teaching! I know and believe you are doing just fine. Much love and blessings in Messiah Yahusha

~ ThINKer in SA

... I found Don right after I started searching for my roots. I found Hebrew Roots and like a glider went right in and then out. But I heard Don on GLC one day and that was what I needed. I have such a strong faith and am able to stand on my beliefs now, thanks to Don's delicate preaching, I'm just fine. I pray all of us find this reassurance. I love Don and am so thankful for the strength and truth I've come to know through him. Blessings Don...Keep preaching!

~ ThINKer from NM

Just wanted to say "hello"! Hope you are well. I'm still watching and listening. I never went away.

~ ThINKer in NM

I do hope all are well. Things are about the same as they were last letter with us. ... I want to say thank you again for the materials I have received from you in the past. I listen and read often. Your radio show on dial up is a great encouragement and help.

~ ThINKer in VA

Hope you had a wonderful Fest Of Tabernacles. Thank you for changing my life! It is amazing to me that The Creator of The Universe found someone across the ocean in another country to bring His Truth to me! It's been almost three years since I registered with your ministry and "it's getting better every day" I've have learned to hear the voice of YHWH every day in my life now! Thanks Don! You are the product of your parents and that is what The Father YHWH has used to make you the Preacher that you are to the world! The world needs to hear Truth and I do believe you give it straight from The Throne Room!

~ ThINKer from SA

It has been a while that I was unable to communicate ... I had to find another position again. Things are not looking good in this country at present but I guess if one cannot discern the times then you have to be blind. The wheels are coming of so to speak all over the world. We are plagued by crime, pestilence, war rumors of war, disobedience, and lawlessness. Matthew 24? ... I have a new found friend in Shadow my Golden retriever pup who is the most energetic dog I have ever had but oh so

loveable. Sometimes I think that I prefer the company of my animals to people. My dogs don't grumble, sulk, talk badly of others, they just love me no matter what. Lately I am realizing that the beasts can teach us more than we can teach them. Is that not what Jesus meant when he said ." a new commandment I give to you....." I wonder how come so many people don't hear what he said.

~ ThINKer in S. Africa

How wonderful to hear from you Mr. Don! I was more than happy to have read people's testimonies (especially the one who got "Le Sabbat" - French Version). It is humbling to know that some people see the truth and follow it. As for me, I am in the hands of the Creator. He leads, I follow. But I know that He cannot lead me into error. I have trained myself to "listen" to Him and trust me, He speaks. Sometimes, I don't feel comfortable with His directions but, I follow. ... I appreciate every mail you send, every prayer you pray and every word of encouragement you speak. ... I remain strong and obedient to Yehovah through the Scriptures. God willing, we see soon! ... And as we say in Yoruba Language: "Ki ife Oluwa wa Jesu Kristi wa pelu gbogbo yin, amin." "May the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, amen." Shalom.

~ThINKer in Nigeria

Greetings in Yahshua's name. Let me thank you so much for the DVD 'Surviving The End'. May the heavenly father bless you. I do wonder if you could send more Studies in the same format especially on Wisdom. ...Thank you!

~ThINKer in Kenya

The Questions of Jesus! "What Is The Kingdom Of Heaven Like"!

I must have read that several times during the past three years and today is the first time that I finally 'GET It' - Revelation from Abba YHWH! Today is the first day of the rest of my life in Him. If I should 'sleep' before He returns so be it. My life today has taken on a different meaning. I am discovering so many 'nuggets of gold!' Thank you for sharing and caring so much through your ministry! Abundant Blessings! and by the way I always appreciate your Good Preaching. Wish there were more preachers out there with your caliber!

~ThINKer in SA

I have several of your teachings and listen to them often. I was here about 2 years ago. I have been on a trip. I hope to meet you some day and tell you about it. You speak only the truth. Thank you . Very few teachers do that.

~ ThINKer in UT

I have been suffering from "Christian persecution" about missing church. Have a good friend tell me I am not being a spiritual leader of my home because of my absence, which I know is hog wash. ...Thanks for your service and all you do, cannot tell you how much your ministry means to me and my family, kind of get emotional just thinking about it. God bless you.

~ ThINKer in AR

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