

Weekly Lift #27

13th October, 2020.



A little extra bible in your week

“Thank you?”

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” 14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” 19 Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

(Luke 17:11-19)

This is such a strange encounter for Jesus. He heals 10 people with leprosy, a disease that made them outsiders to their communities and even their own families. They could have very little contact with people. Everywhere they walked, they were required to call out “unclean, unclean” so everyone knew they were diseased and could stay away from them. It was a lonely and painful existence that affected them until they died. There was no cure. It was a lonely, difficult and painful existence. Imagine a lifetime of isolation.

And so Jesus sends all ten lepers away. They were cleansed as they left. Yet only one praised God and returned to thank Jesus for his healing. And he was a Samaritan. What is the significance of this? Samaritans were seen by the Jews as terrible people, and as enemies of the Jews. Here is a man who many saw as an outcast because he was a leper, and the Jews saw him even more so as an outcast because he was a Samaritan. Yet he was the only one to respond appropriately to Jesus. He was the only one who recognised the power of God and responded. And Jesus final words to him are:

“Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

What Jesus saw above everything else, even above the man’s healing from leprosy, was his faith. True healing, true health, comes from recognising God in our life and returning to him, with thanks, for all he has done for us. It is easy sometimes to forget to do this. It takes time to reflect and time to think about what God has done for us in our lives – from the every-day things to the most important – the act of Jesus dying on a cross for our sins and rising to eternal life.

We glorify God when we recognise his work in our life and give him thanks. What has God done for you – today, this week, this year, and in your whole life? Why not take the time to thank him, and glorify him, right now?

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for (...insert specifics here...)

...

Thank you for all the times you have healed me – physically, spiritually and emotionally.

Thank you for all the times you have intervened in my life and brought me closer to you.

Thank you for the people you have placed around me to help me in my walk of faith.

Thank you for yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Thank you that you are all powerful, all loving and all forgiving.

Thank you most of all that you have forgiven my sins in Jesus' name and offered me eternal life with you.

Amen.

God bless.

Bruce Stanley

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Helpful links for your daily walk:

Weekly lifts in Chinese now available:

<http://sc.stphils.org.au/weeklyblog> (simplified – Mandarin)

<http://tc.stphils.org.au/weeklylift> (Traditional - Cantonese)

Nehemiah Bible Studies

Also, the new Bible study guide for the book of Nehemiah can be found here:

<http://stphils.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Nehemiah-Bible-Study-Guide-2020.pdf>

Missed Church on Sunday? Catch up on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/eastwoodanglican>