

# WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO GRATITUDE?

## HELP ME JESUS!

### Never Mind, Things Are Better Now

Luke 17:11-19

#### THE BACK STORY

Numbers 5:2-4 & Leviticus 14:1-11/ Luke 7:22/ Luke 17:7-10

#### THE STORY

Luke 17:11-19

## STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT GRATITUDE

### WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT

1 Thessalonians 5:18 & Ephesians 5:17-20/ Philippians 4:4-7/ Psalm 100:4 & Psalm 103  
Romans 1:21/ Deuteronomy 8:11-17/ 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

### WHY IT'S SO HARD TO MAINTAIN

#### *The Six Great Enemies of Gratitude*

(1) **Comparison**

Matthew 20:1-15

(2) **Entitlement**

Luke 11:7-10

(3) **Pride**

Deuteronomy 8:11-17

(4) **Bitterness**

Ephesians 4:31-32/ Hebrews 12:15/ Matthew 6:14 & 18:22-35

(5) **Spiritual Myopia**

1 Kings 19:13-18/ Genesis 50:20

(6) **Shortsightedness**

Psalm 73/ 1 Peter 4:12-19/ Hebrews 12:7-8

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Psalm 73/ 1 Peter 4:12-19/ Hebrews 12:7-8

## Food for Thought

For the week of July 31, 2011

(Questions and scriptures for further personal study)

1. Larry used Asaph in Psalm 73 as an example of a person who suffered from shortsightedness. Take a minute to go back and read all of Psalm 73 and then answer the following questions.

Where do you see these other two "Enemies of Gratitude" – comparison and bitterness – show up in this psalm?

What is it that ultimately helped Asaph overcome the trap of shortsightedness and comparison?

How does Asaph's attitude change once his perspective changes?

What are things in your life that can help you gain perspective when you're struggling with any of the "Enemies of Gratitude" Larry mentioned?

2. One reason we can struggle with gratitude is because God isn't working the way we want or expect him to. Often, God's will unfolds very differently than we expect so we miss what he's doing in our lives. One example of this is found in 2 Kings 5:1-15. After reading the story, answer the questions below.

How do Naaman's expectations of how God would heal him compare to how it actually happened?

Why do you think he was so angry at how God chose to heal him?

What is the impact of his response to his healing on his "attitude of gratitude?"

What can we learn about how we and others respond to God's will from this story?

3. The theme of the 100-year-old hymn "Count Your Blessings" echoes what we heard this weekend about gratitude. The chorus goes like this; "Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God hath done!" Take some time to do just that. Take out a pen and a piece of paper and count your blessings by writing down what you are thankful for.