

## Communion and Gratitude

### 5-5-13

On many tables that we set communion on, the words "Do This In My Memory" are inscribed from I Corinthians 11:24. Communion is for those Saved by Christ; it has no meaning or value for those who have not been saved by Christ. It proclaims "I will not forget". We remember Jesus today. But what about next week? What about tomorrow? Is it possible we might forget even tonight?

In Luke 17:11-19 we read about Jesus healing ten lepers. Only one came back and said "thank you". Let us use the term "saved" for a moment; they were saved from a lifetime of agony, a disease that cut them off from others, something they had no power over. In the Bible, sickness is similar to sin. Consider Matthew 9:1-8; there Jesus healed a man to demonstrate He had the power to forgive sins.

We all despise ingratitude. But do we show it? Is it possible we are like the nine that did not return to give thanks? Maybe we should consider why it is possible that the other nine didn't return.

Perhaps they had good intentions to return, but were caught up in other things. When they finally had the opportunity to give thanks, Jesus was gone. The one who did return did so immediately. Maybe the other nine did not see it necessary; since Jesus had not given them a "word for word" command to return, they did not see it as important. The one who did return saw it as necessary. Maybe the nine thought they had done enough by heading towards the priests. After all, they were healed. The one believed it was important. Maybe the nine simply did not care. Perhaps, they even *resented* Jesus, blaming Him for all manner of woes.

The hard part to consider is that Jesus knew that most forget. He tells us this in the parable of the sower and soils in Mark 4. Yet He healed them anyway. Why? Because one leper did return. Perhaps we ought to focus in on that. Why did he return? For one thing, he knew where he was healed by Jesus. He was grateful for his gift. Jesus later told him that his faith made him well. Without a doubt, he knew where to be to give thanks.

The Missing Nine can be summed up in a word: UNGRATEFUL. Let's apply this to our coming together for communion, or any purpose. Do our good intentions matter? If we do not make the time to return to the place where we have healing (not the church, but the Lord), we have been ungrateful. If we forsake the assembly of ourselves, it is a sign of being ungrateful. Let us not become that very thing we despise by being here now, but making no provision to come back at each time we appoint to meet.