

THE BIG IDEA: Entitlement receives the gift but rejects the giver.The Take-Off

Before we even begin to look at the next section of Luke 17, I need to confess something.

I am terrible at Thank You notes. Always have been.

Maybe you are, too.

I get it - we give ourselves the benefit of the doubt (“I’m tired, busy, etc. but they know I’m thankful”), but this morning we’re going to see some others who had a hard time saying thank you and I’m going to use a word to describe them that could probably be used to describe us.

Ouch. I’m with you. It’s a real “Wait What” moment!

Let’s read Luke 17:11-19 and then let’s see what we can learn from it.

Wow. So Jesus had a 10% return rate on the miracle.

9 out of 10 people didn’t send Jesus a Thank You note after they were healed.

There are a lot of words that could be used to describe a person who doesn’t say thank you, but I’m going to use one that seems to be pretty spot on in our culture today: these men were entitled.

That’s why they responded the way they did. See, entitlement received the gift but rejects the giver.

That’s a fairly hard Big Idea, so let’s spend the rest of the time showing how the truth of it can help us become more like the 1 who came back than the 9 who didn’t.

1. Gratitude allows the gift to point to the giver

- a. Full discloser: I wasn’t sure how to put into words what I’m trying to say, but if entitlement received the gift but rejects the giver, then gratitude does the opposite.
- b. It allows the gift to point to the giver.
- c. We see these 10 lepers receive the same healing but have very different responses.
- d. Why does entitlement receive the gift but reject the giver? Because he believes that he deserves the gift.
- e. If we’re entitled, then we’ll focus on the gift. Who gives it is secondary, because the gift is what we deserved all along.
- f. 9 lepers believed that they deserved the healing more than they believed that they needed the Healer.
- g. They just needed a little help, not a total healing.
- h. But for the 1, the healing was secondary to the giver.
- i. You’ve seen this work in your own lives. You’ve received “bad” gifts but they were good because of who gave them.
- j. Knowing the giver changes our response to the gift.
- k. [Sydney giving me a book called “How to be a better dad”]

2. Gratitude fuels a worship that breaks the rules

- a. How did the one respond? We find it in verses 15-16.
- b. He came back / the touch of Jesus changes our plans
- c. He praised God / the touch of Jesus changes our worship
- d. In a loud voice / the touch of Jesus changes our intensity
- e. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet / the touch of Jesus changes our position
- f. And thanked Him / the touch of Jesus changes our focus (giver vs gift; gratitude vs entitlement)
- g. Some of you need to have a gratitude-fueled worship experience!
- h. You need to stop worrying about what’s right, or proper, or dignified and you need to allow the passion of your worship to rise to the same level as your gratitude for the gift
- i. Gratitude fuels a worship that breaks the rules!

3. Gratitude reveals (in)itlement

- a. I kind of wish the account ended there, because that’s a feel good ending, isn’t it?
- b. But in typical “Wait, what” fashion, Jesus makes 2 very important observations: one, 9 people were missing, and two, the one who came back was an outsider.
- c. Here’s why I think that’s important: gratitude reveals entitlement, and more specifically, the gratitude of others reveals the entitlement in me

- d. The way the one responded actually highlighted the way the nine didn't
- e. This happens so much, doesn't it? Someone goes over the top and their passion calls out our lack of it!
- f. But Jesus also made note that the one who returned was a Samaritan.
- g. Why? Because I think entitlement is more and more of a danger for those of us who are "insiders"
- h. The longer we walk with and serve Jesus, the less grateful we are for all that He's done for us
- i. Like the 9 Jewish lepers, we do the "right" thing but miss the giver
- j. After all, those 9 had the faith to obey Jesus, and were on their way to do what He'd said to do
- k. My prayer is always that we'd have new blood - new transformations - that would respond to Jesus out of a pure heart more than out of an expected protocol
- l. Will that reveal entitlement that has crept in to the body? Possibly.
- m. Gratitude has a way of doing that.

The Landing

Where are you? If entitlement is 1 and gratitude is 10, where would you place yourself?

May we be more and more like this foreign, Samaritan outside who lived out Psalm 105:1 more than the 9 did / "Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness."

Let's pray.