



DATE	November 26, 2017
SPEAKER	Nathan Jager
TITLE	More the Skin Deep
SERIES	This time of year, it's easy to say what we're thankful for, but gratitude is more than just words. The question is not, "Do we have a grateful heart?" The real question is, "Do we have grateful habits?" In the story of the 10 lepers, we'll see how one man's act of gratitude brought him more than physical healing.

The devil's workshop is full of tools... I can just hear Screwtape telling his nephew Wormwood, "Now that one over there. That's the one that is guaranteed to hook the patient every time. You need only to plant its seed in the soil of a pleasant surprise or unexpected reward and soon the vine of ingratitude will grow to choke the patient's thoughts of thanks before they become a deadly action."

The BIG DEAL

Today Nathan pointed out that ingratitude must be a big deal to God. (See 1 Timothy 4:1-14) He further differentiated between attitude and practice. Did you realize, prior to this week's message, that there is a significant difference between an "attitude" of gratitude and the "practice" of gratitude? In which camp do you fall? How has your perspective on gratitude changed?

Setting the stage...Leprosy

Nathan used the story of the 10 lepers from Luke 17 to illustrate the difference between attitude and practice. He listed some of the devastating impacts of the disease and its correlation to sin. For example, sin numbs us to things just like this disease. Is there anything that you can think of in your own life that has made you become numb to certain behaviors or more mediocre to what you will and will not stand for?

The lessons of the lepers

"As they went, they were cleansed" Jesus didn't perform the miracle immediately. Sometimes we have to do before we feel! What areas in your life could you ask God to show you where you need to stop waiting for change and instead actually do something toward moving in the direction God wants? Have you ever experienced a "go before you know" situation in your life? What first step did you take in faith before God's plan became clearer? In the end, how did your story unfold?

As Nathan pointed out, all ten lepers received healing of some sort. Nine received skin healing, but only one received soul healing. Read James 1:22 and discuss with your group how James' exhortation relates to what made the difference for the one leper.

In the sermon, Nathan stated God's gifts, miracles, and kindness alone cannot bring you joy. Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?

Go and do likewise

What are you missing out on due to a lack of gratitude? How could your circumstance/relationship potentially change if you make a conscious effort to practice gratitude?

Read Psalm 107:2. What are some actions of gratitude you can start right now? How are actions of gratitude declarations of the gospel of Jesus Christ to others?

During the Christmas season, what are some different ways gratitude could actively be expressed?

Read Joshua 4:1-7. Make a list of blessings God has poured out on you.

Who do you need to tell TODAY that they matter to you, they need to feel that you are grateful for them, & need to know that you love them?