

A Grateful Samaritan

Read Your Bible – *Luke 17:11-33*

Put your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

Bible Vocabulary

Noe: Noah

Complete the exercises.

1. How many of the healed lepers failed to return and give thanks to Jesus? _____
2. To what display of nature does Jesus compare His coming? _____
3. Name two notable historical events that Jesus referred to in this lesson's verses.

ANALYZE THE READING

While on a short-term mission trip, a minister was leading worship at a leper colony on the island of Tobago. A woman who had been facing away from the pulpit turned around, so that the minister caught a glimpse of her.

“It was the most hideous face I had ever seen,” the visiting pastor later reported. “The woman’s nose and ears were entirely gone. She lifted a fingerless hand in the air and asked, ‘Can we sing, ‘Count Your Many Blessings’?’”

Overcome with emotion, the pastor left the service. He was followed by a team member who said, “I guess you’ll never be able to sing that song again.”

“Yes, I will,” he replied, “but I will never sing it the same way.”

The healing of the ten lepers reminds us that God is pleased and glorified when we remember to give thanks. Only one of the ten had the spirit of the leper from Tobago who kept counting her blessings. Did you notice that the lepers “stood afar off” and lifted their voices so that Jesus would hear them? The Law forbade lepers to come close to cities and to other people. At certain stages of the disease, leprosy was easily spread to other people.

The ten lepers believed that Jesus could heal them. They may have gathered to meet Him in response to news that Jesus was in the area. They were healed as they went off to find priests, who would examine them and declare them free of the disease. However, only one leper turned back to

Jesus when he saw that he had been healed. Note the hint of disappointment in Jesus' words when He asked, "Where are the nine?" Do you disappoint Him by a lack of thankfulness?

Verse 16 emphasizes that the thankful leper was a Samaritan. You may remember that the Jews looked down on the Samaritans, considering them inferior. But only the Samaritan gave God glory for his healing. Notice that the Samaritan glorified God with a loud voice, that he fell down on his face at Jesus' feet, and that he repeatedly thanked Jesus. "Giving thanks" implies that he went on thanking Christ. Here is a picture of deep, honest gratitude—the kind we ought to have toward God for all His marvelous gifts.

Following the healing of the lepers, the Pharisees questioned Jesus about the coming of God's kingdom. The Jewish leaders confused Jesus' many references to the kingdom of God with their longing for a political king to liberate them from Roman domination. They were always looking for an event to spark an uprising that would lead to an all-out revolt against Rome.

However, Jesus told the Pharisees not to look for political signs that God's kingdom was coming. He insisted that God's kingdom "is within you," which may also be translated "is among you." Jesus may have meant that the kingdom of God is only found within human hearts—not in earthly kingdoms. Or, He may have meant that the kingdom was then in their presence—"among you." As King of the kingdom, Jesus had already brought the kingdom to men. Either way, Jesus shows us that His kingdom is not attached to any worldly government. It exists where Jesus is present, reigning over human hearts.

Talk of the kingdom prompted Jesus to speak to His disciples about the years that would intervene before He returned to the earth. Those years have now stretched out to almost twenty centuries.

What Jesus said is certainly true. Those who love Him constantly yearn "to see one of the days of the Son of man." However, Jesus warned that His return—often called the Second Coming—will be sudden, like a flash of lightning.

Leprosy

Leprosy was one of the most feared diseases in the ancient world. There was no known cure for this skin disease, and it often killed its victims. Because leprosy was so contagious, lepers were isolated from other people. Adding to his misery, a leper was forced to leave his family and live outside the city walls by himself or with other lepers.

Any time other people approached, a leper was required to place his hand before his mouth and call out, "Unclean! Unclean!" Leviticus 13:45 and 46, says, "And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be."

The Old Testament gives detailed rules for restoring those who thought their leprosy was healed. The individual met a priest outside the city. The priest examined the person to make sure the disease had truly gone away. Then the priest killed a bird and drained its blood into a bowl. He dipped a live bird in the blood, as well as a piece of scarlet thread, a piece of cedar wood, and clippings from a shrub called hyssop (see Leviticus 14:1-7). These items may have symbolized cleansing and purity.

His coming will not be announced in advance beyond the warnings Jesus has already given us. His coming will take place as life goes on normally. So Jesus compares the Second Coming to Noah's day and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, when people were doing all the normal things: eating, drinking, buying and selling,


and getting married. Suddenly the Flood came. Without warning, fire and brimstone destroyed Sodom. When Jesus returns, there will be no time to prepare.


Remember Lot's wife. Believers must not look longingly back at their former lives of sin, but walk moment-by-moment in obedience to the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

Complete the exercises.

4. What political event were the Jews longing for? _____

 5. When Jesus met the ten lepers He was on His way to _____.

 6. The health problem of the ten men was a _____ disease.

 7. Give two reasons leprosy was such a feared disease.

A. _____


B. _____

LIFE OF CHRIST

Complete the sentence.

8. Jesus was _____ by the lepers' lack of gratitude.

Correct the following three false statements.

 9. Jesus told the lepers to go *wash in the Jordan River*.

10. The lepers were all healed while *the priests examined their skin*.

11. The leper who thanked Jesus was a *Jew*.

TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

Circle *T* if the statement is true and *F* if it is false.

12. **T** **F** God's kingdom is a political kingdom.

Circle the letters of the answers.

13. Where is the kingdom of God found?
- A. in every human heart
 - B. in a secret geographical location
 - C. in the right kind of civil government
 - D. wherever Jesus reigns in people’s hearts



14. What things did Jesus teach in this lesson’s verses about His Second Coming?
- A. His coming will be sudden.
 - B. He will come after the moon turns red and the sun turns black.
 - C. His coming will happen while life is going on normally.
 - D. He will come during a great flood.
 - E. Many people will be unprepared.
 - F. There will be time to prepare for eternity when Christ returns.

BIBLE MEMORY

Say Luke 19:10 to yourself several times. Then write it, including its reference.

15. _____

THINK IT THROUGH

- △ 16. What do you think Jesus meant by these words: “Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it”?



Read John 12:25 also.

- △ 17. Jesus was disappointed by the ingratitude of nine of the lepers. Do you think the Lord is pleased with your level of gratitude?

Evaluate yourself in the following areas and answer *yes* or *no*.

- A. _____ Do you always wish for more and better sports equipment and games?
- B. _____ Are you grateful for your clothes and shoes?
- C. _____ Do you grumble about the way your lunch tastes?
- D. _____ Do you murmur about how hot or cold the weather is?
- E. _____ Do you grumble when you are called to get out of bed?
- F. _____ Do you murmur about tasks such as washing dishes or carrying out trash?

- G. _____ Do you grumble about too much homework?
- H. _____ Are you glad for the restrictions and rules your parents give you?
- I. _____ Do you say "Thank you" after each meal to the person(s) who prepared it?
- J. _____ Are you thankful for the health you have?

REVIEW

Complete the sentences.

18. The _____ was not only the religious leader, but also the _____ leader of the Jewish nation during _____ Testament times.
19. The high priest who prophesied Jesus would die for the nation was _____ .

Circle the letters of the answers.

20. The members of the Sanhedrin were made up of ____ or ____ .
- A. the Samaritans
- B. the priests
- C. the Sadducees
- D. the publicans
- E. the Romans

Circle **T** if the statement is true and **F** if it is false. Correct any false statements.

21. **T** **F** The Sanhedrin was the *final court of appeal* of Mosaic Law.
22. **T** **F** There were *forty* members of the Sanhedrin.
23. **T** **F** The Sanhedrin could try *kings* and priests.
24. **T** **F** *Few* people believed in Jesus when they saw the resurrected Lazarus.
25. **T** **F** The Sanhedrin could not carry out the *death sentence*.

Answer the questions.

26. Who is our Great High Priest? _____
27. Why did the Sanhedrin exaggerate the danger from the Romans in an effort to do away with Jesus?

28. What two things made it hard for the Sanhedrin to turn people against Jesus?

Read Your Bible – *Luke 18:1-14*

Put your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

Bible Vocabulary

avenge (ə vənj'): defend; bring about justice

extortioner (ik stōr' shə nər): one who gets money by threatening others

Answer the questions.

1. Why did the unjust judge avenge the widow? _____

2. To whom was the story of the Pharisee and publican directed? _____

3. What will happen to those who exalt themselves? _____

ANALYZE THE READING

The young president of a company told his secretary not to disturb him during a certain hour each morning, as he was going to keep a regular appointment in his office at that time. One day, the chairman of the company's board of directors came in and said to the secretary, "I want to see Mr. Jones."

The secretary answered, "I'm very sorry but he cannot be disturbed; he has an important appointment at this time."

This did not please the chairman at all, and he angrily charged through the door only to see the president, down on his knees in prayer! The

chairman softly closed the door and asked the secretary, "Is this usual?"

"Yes, he does that every morning."

The chairman replied, "No wonder he gives such good advice."

Jesus taught that we should pray regularly and frequently and not give up. To illustrate his point, He told a story of an earthly judge who had no concern for justice and no compassion toward a widow in need. This selfish judge was greatly annoyed by the widow's persistent pleading. In fact, the phrase "she weary me" in verse five is literally "give me a black eye" in the original language!

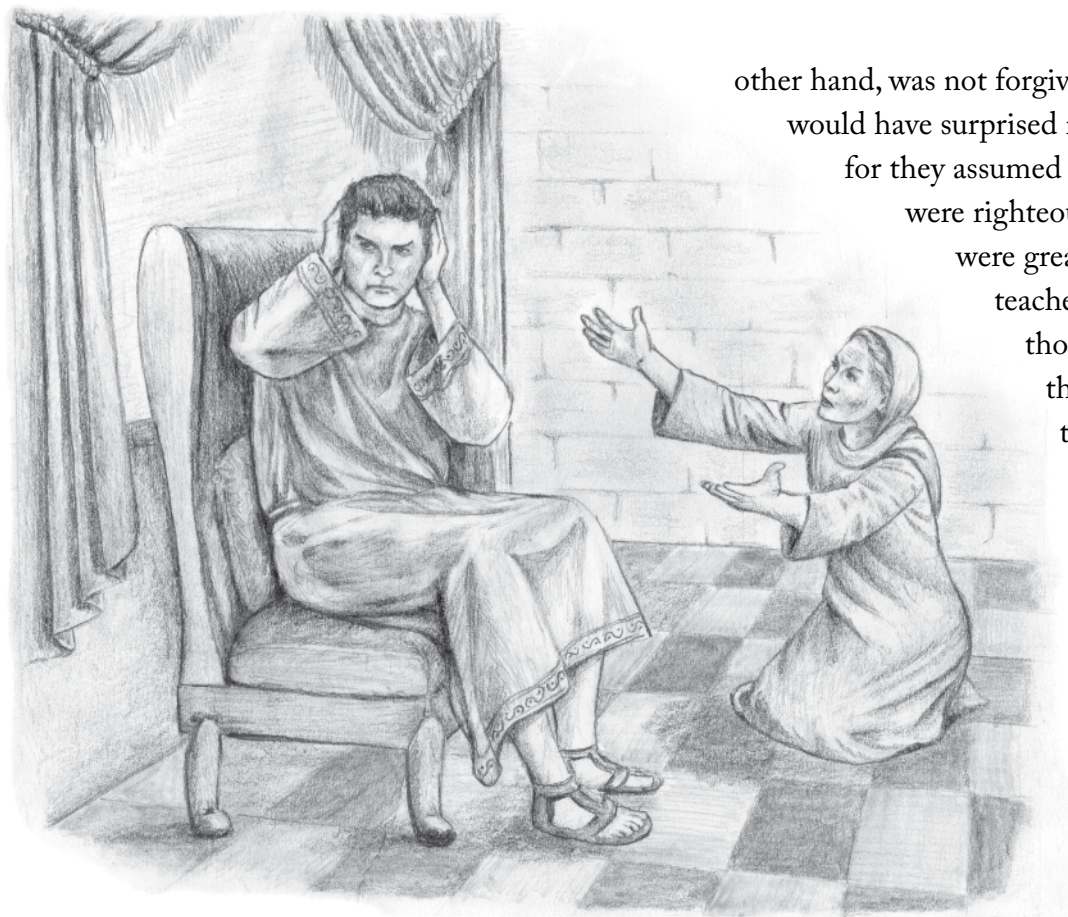
Jesus' point is not that God is annoyed by our persistence in prayer. Rather, He means that even a corrupt judge will eventually be moved by continual asking. How much more the compassionate God who longs to meet His children's needs! Thus, we should keep praying to Him. God hears us and He will answer. When the time comes for God to execute justice, He will do so speedily. At Jesus' return, will He find the world's people to be characterized by a desire to love God and obey Him? From what Jesus said, it does not seem likely that many will be.

Jesus' second parable in today's passage contrasts a self-righteous Pharisee and a humble tax collector. Jesus said that the tax collector "went down to his house justified." By this, the Lord meant that the tax collector found the forgiveness he was seeking from God. The Pharisee, on the

The Pharisees

There were about six thousand Pharisees at the time of Christ. The name *Pharisee* probably means "a separated one." The Pharisees strictly followed the Law of Moses and also added many rules and rituals to their religious practice. They separated themselves from those who did not keep their rules and generally looked down on others. For example, Pharisees would have nothing to do with Samaritans who were only partly Jewish.

The Pharisees' emphasis on the outward appearance of holiness, without inward purity of heart and purpose, brought them into conflict with Christ. He condemned their hypocrisy and their lack of love for their fellow men.



other hand, was not forgiven. This parable would have surprised most of Jesus' hearers, for they assumed that the Pharisees were righteous and tax collectors were great sinners. Jesus' story teaches us that God accepts those who are humble; those who understand that apart from God's mercy, they cannot be saved.

TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

Circle the letters of the answers.

4. Circle three characteristics of the judge.
- A. God-fearing
 - B. selfish
 - C. eager to dispense justice
 - D. influenced by repeated requests
 - E. hard-hearted
5. Which is the main point of the story of the unjust judge?
- A. You should continually plead with those in authority.
 - B. You must remember that vengeance belongs to God.
 - C. Judges should be fair and fear God.
 - D. You should be persistent in prayer.



6. Who was the focus of the Pharisee's prayer?
- A. God
 - B. the publican
 - C. himself
 - D. the unjust judge

Answer the questions.

7. What type of people will Jesus likely find few of when He returns? _____



8. What two good things did the Pharisee tell God he did?

A. _____

B. _____



9. List the ways the publican showed his humility and need by his actions and words.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

10. Whom does God accept? _____

BIBLE MEMORY

Complete the verse.

11. "For the _____ of _____ is _____ to _____ and to _____ that _____ was _____." _____ 19:10

THINK IT THROUGH

Put a checkmark before the attitudes, words, or actions that please God.

12. A. _____ "Lord, please forgive my sins."
 B. _____ "I'm not a bad person. I go to church every Sunday."
 C. _____ "God, thank you for helping me give more generously than anyone else in the church."
 D. _____ "I need God's mercy each day."
 E. _____ Michael enjoys hearing others refer to him as a wonderful church member.
 F. _____ Sue is glad she is not like Jill, who sometimes struggles with bad habits.
 G. _____ Jeremy slipped into church early and bowed his head, asking God to meet his need.
 H. _____ "God, I am unworthy of your love and grace."

CONCORDANCE PRACTICE

Use *Strong's Concordance* to complete the exercises.

- △ 13. Find the Greek word for *pray* as it is used in the following references. Beside each Greek word write its meaning (other than "pray").

	Greek word	Definition
A. Matthew 5:44	_____	_____
B. Matthew 9:38	_____	_____
C. Matthew 26:53	_____	_____

14. Look up *exalt* and *exalteth* to find two references in the Gospels (other than Luke 18) in which Jesus speaks about someone who exalts himself.
- A. _____
 B. _____

REVIEW

Answer the question.

15. Where is the kingdom of God? _____

Lesson 12

Circle **T** if the statement is true and **F** if it is false. Correct any false statements.

16. **T** **F** Christ will return while everyone is *watching for him*.
17. **T** **F** Christ's Second Coming will be sudden and find *many people unprepared*.
18. **T** **F** When Christ returns, the time to prepare for eternity is *past*.
19. **T** **F** Lepers were forced to live separate from *other people*.
20. **T** **F** The Jews looked for signs of a *spiritual* kingdom.

Complete the sentences.

21. Jesus told the ten lepers to go _____ themselves to the _____. As they went, they were all _____; but only one, a _____, turned back to thank Jesus.

Two Rich Men

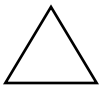
Read Your Bible – Luke 18:18-30; 19:1-10

Put your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

Answer the questions.

1. How many of the Ten Commandments did Jesus state? _____
2. Why did the ruler feel sad when Jesus told to him to sell all his possessions and give to the poor? _____
3. Who said, “We have left all to follow Jesus”? _____
4. Why did Zacchaeus climb the sycamore tree? _____

Vocabulary Word



restitution (res' tə tü' shən): the act of giving back what was taken, often with the addition of something of greater value

ANALYZE THE READING

A minister once said, “I believe more people will stand condemned on the day of judgment because of their love for and misuse of money than for any other thing.” Do you think Jesus would agree with this evaluation?

Of the many parables that Jesus told in the Gospels, nearly half deal with handling money. Jesus said more about money and possessions than about Heaven and Hell combined. In this lesson, the Lord speaks with two men about their money and goods.

The first man was a ruler, perhaps a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin. He had position, power, and prestige. He was also very rich. But he had a question about the most important consideration in life—eternity. To his credit, he asked the right person for an answer. He spoke respectfully, calling Jesus “Good Master.” Mark’s Gospel tells us that he knelt before Jesus, and that Jesus loved this man.

The ruler boasted a good record in keeping the law all his life. However, Jesus identified the

ruler's problem—he loved riches. He was not willing to part with his great wealth. The Lord pointed out that this is the case with most people who have money—they cannot bear to part with it. Jesus made several other statements about riches hindering spiritual progress. The proof of these statements is in the ruler's reaction. Jesus compared a rich man trying to enter Heaven to a camel trying to fit through the eye of a needle. This comparison emphasizes the seriousness of accumulating riches.

The second man Jesus encountered was a tax collector. Unlike rulers from the Sanhedrin, tax collectors were despised, as you have read before. They were widely known for their dishonesty and greatly envied for their wealth. As a chief tax collector, Zacchaeus would have been a very wealthy man indeed. However, he surprises us with his desire to meet Jesus and also to make **restitution** to those he has cheated.

The contrast between the ruler and the tax collector was sharp. The ruler, highly regarded for keeping the Law, failed to find the kingdom. The despised tax collector found salvation the moment he repented of his sinful way of life. In Leviticus 6, the Law requires a man in Zacchaeus's position to pay back the people he had cheated. He was to return the amount he had stolen and then add one-fifth more. Zacchaeus

was ready to pay back *four times* what he had taken. What great zeal for justice!

Also, Zacchaeus volunteered to give half of his wealth to the poor. Note the sharp contrast between his attitude and the rich ruler's. Jesus did not tell Zacchaeus that he had to give all his money to the poor. Zacchaeus's pledge demonstrated that he had already turned from love of money to a desire for righteousness.

Eye of the Needle

People have offered different ideas of what Jesus meant by the eye of a needle. Some have suggested that the phrase referred to a small door within a larger door. People could walk through the smaller door, but large animals like camels could not.

However, it is clear that Jesus meant the tiny eye of a sewing needle. He used this extreme contrast to point out the danger of riches. As we see in Zacchaeus's case, however, the problem is not money but the love of money. Jesus does not mean it is *impossible* for a rich man to enter the kingdom but that it is very difficult, for where a person's treasure is, there his heart will also be.

NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

Answer the questions.

5. What did the rich ruler have to his credit?
 - A. He was concerned about preparing for _____.
 - B. He spoke _____ to Jesus.
 - C. He had _____ the Law all his life.


6. Did the rich ruler go away prepared for eternity? _____


- 7. What prevented the rich ruler from being ready for eternity? _____
- 8. How do we know Zacchaeus made restitution willingly? _____


- 9. *Repent* as it is used in the Gospels means to “think differently” or “reconsider.” How did Zacchaeus’s pledge to give half his wealth to the poor demonstrate his repentance?

TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

Answer the questions.

-  10. What was Jesus’ response to Zacchaeus’s promise to make restitution and give to the poor?

-  11. Why is it difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom of God? _____

-  12. The people of Jesus’ day would have considered Zacchaeus “impossible” to save. What did Jesus say in today’s verses from Luke 18 that explains his salvation? _____

BIBLE MEMORY

Write the memory verse, including its reference.

- 13. _____

THINK IT THROUGH

Complete the exercises.

- △ 14. Jesus told the rich ruler to give his wealth to the poor. Zacchaeus decided to give fifty percent of his wealth to the poor. What are some specific ways that you can assist the poor in your community and/or in other parts of the world?

Lesson 13

15. Circle the letters of the ways riches can be a hindrance to following Jesus.
- A. A person may be proud of his wealth.
 - B. Money offers temporary power and influence.
 - C. Money is easily stolen.
 - D. Riches and covetousness often go together.
 - E. The love of money can easily come ahead of love for God.
 - F. Wealth gives a person more opportunities to give to the poor.
 - G. Riches can make a person feel self-sufficient, forgetting his need for God.

REVIEW

Answer the questions.

16. What quality of prayer did Jesus teach in the parable of the widow and the unjust judge?

17. What did the publican show when he lowered his eyes and prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner"?

Circle the letters of the answer.

18. Which statements are true about the Pharisee's prayer in Jesus' parable?
- A. He prayed about himself.
 - B. He reminded God of the fasting and tithing he had done.
 - C. He confessed his sins.
 - D. God did not accept him.
 - E. When he left the temple, he was forgiven.

Circle T if the statement is true and F if it is false. Correct any false statements.

19. **T** **F** *Humility* is needed in order to be accepted by God.
20. **T** **F** Those who exalt themselves can expect to be *exalted* by God.