

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#67 – “What Is the Status of Gratitude in Your Life”

– Luke 17:7-19

I. Gratitude – it’s out of favor today.

A. Where is appreciation these days?

1. Rudeness
2. Thanklessness

B. The Bible puts a premium on gratitude.

1. Col. 3:16; Psalm 30:4; Isa. 12:1; John 6:23;
Eph 5:4,20; I Thess. 5:18

C. The heathens certainly do not offer thanks.

1. Romans 1:21
2. Contrast to Christians

D. How much does God owe us?

1. Jesus will clarify this in today’s text.

II. Exposition

A. Luke 17:7-9

1. First century context for a dinner invitation.
2. It would be upside down for the master to serve the servant.

B. Luke 17:10

1. We often approach God in the opposite manner.
 - a. The elder brother in the Prodigal Son story.
 - b. God does not owe us anything.
2. “Unworthy servants” – no merit
 - a. A bad investment for God.
 - b. Total allegiance (which we do not give) is the bare minimum.
 - c. We have not earned anything.

C. Luke 7:11-13

1. “Jerusalem”
 - a. Jesus made several brief trips to the city before Holy Week.
2. “Stood at a distance,” verse 12.
 - a. Isolated outsiders of the first century
3. “Master,” verse 13 – only used in Luke
4. “Have mercy on us” – incurable disease

D. Luke 7:14

1. Miracle!
2. Priestly oversight – Lev. 14:1-32

E. Luke 7:15-16

1. The story is less about the miracle and more about the response.
2. One of the ten had a heart for God.
 - a. Verse 15 – Strong emotion
 - b. He offered thanks, verse 16
 - c. He was doubly an outsider – leper and Samaritan

F. Luke 7:17-18

1. One returns
2. The healing was of grace alone.

G. Luke 7:19

1. “Well” – a form of the New Testament term for “salvation”
2. The other nine
 - a. They wanted the benefits of God but not God.

VI. Points for Reflection

- A. Consider the three penetrating questions of Jesus.
- B. How is it that God becomes our servant instead of being our master?
- C. Thankfulness should be one of our foremost characteristics.
- D. Life becomes more simple when we remember that God owes us nothing.