



## Scripture Nugget - A joyful life is marked by gratitude

*As He was entering a village, ten lepers met Him. They stood at a distance from Him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when He saw them, He said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing He had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine?" (Luke 17:12-17).*

### **Where are the other nine lepers? (cf. Luke 17:17). God wants us to show our gratitude.**

Leprosy has always been a very terrible disease. In the ancient past, lepers had to segregate themselves from their community. Yet when ten were cleansed of this disease, only one took the trouble to come back to thank Jesus. We can appreciate the feeling of Jesus when we receive no acknowledgement of thanks especially when we went out of our way to help a friend. Conversely, we are also guilty like the nine lepers when we are not appreciative and forget to thank God for all His help, His answer to our prayers and all the divine wonderful promises made to us through Jesus Christ. *May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to His call, what are the riches of glory in His inheritance among the holy ones (Ephesians 1:18).* Our short sightedness and shallow faith keep us focused on our perishable material world rather than on the "riches of glory" of the glorious eternal inheritance that belongs to God's children. Thus, it is no wonder that Christians do not stand out as a joyful people.

**Taking the gifts of God for granted will lead to lesser blessings.** The scriptural story of Esau and Jacob should give us a great lesson on appreciating the gifts God has given us. Esau was the first born of Isaac's twins. By ancient Jewish tradition, the first born was entitled to a special blessing in material abundance and high authority in the family. However, Esau squandered and traded away his birthright blessing for a bowl of stew from Jacob, his twin brother when he came home hungry from hunting and Jacob was cooking some stew. Scripture tells us Esau "despised his birthright" (cf. Genesis 25:34). As God's blessings channeled to Jacob, the lives of the two brothers became vastly different. From Jacob issued the Israelites, God's chosen people amongst whom God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ was born. From Esau issued the Edomites people.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, You are deserving of all praise as there is nothing that You have not done that is needed to be done for me (cf. Isaiah 5:4). Praise and adoration belong only to You for Your love is without end, and You are above all authority and power in heaven and on earth. If we do not praise You, even the stones will cry out in this gross injustice (cf. Luke 19:39-40). Help me treasure my faith and to understand it lest I lose it when the devil comes like a bird to devour the seed of faith that fell on my path (cf. Matthew 13:4). Gratitude to God for all that has been done for me keeps me grounded in joy and humility, focused on the everlasting Kingdom that is to come and provides the supernatural strength to overcome all trials and difficulties that stand in the way to salvation (cf. Nehemiah 8:10). Give me the grace to glorify You always, and may my life be an everlasting hymn of praise to Your Name. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.