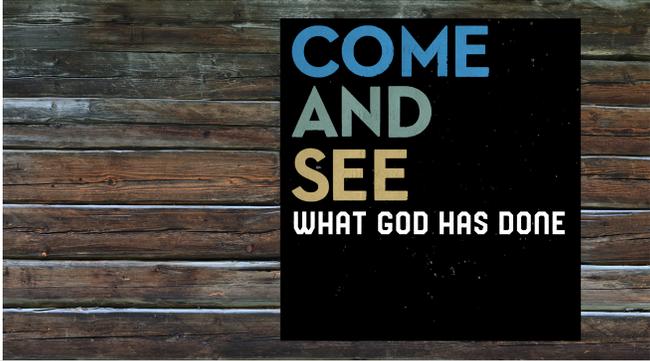


"COME AND SEE: A CRISIS OF GRATEFULNESS"

Date: January 6, 2019

Speaker: Pastor Danny Clinton



**COME
AND
SEE**
WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for." - Zig Ziglar

This Series has a primary Verse...

(Vs) Psalm 66:5 ESV - "Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man."

- In the ancient world, leprosy was a terrible disease. It hopelessly disfigured those who had it, and it permanently cut them off from normal society.
- "In the Israelite community, when a person discovered a rash or skin disorder, he or she had to go to the priest for examination. The priest then determined whether this was a contagious disease and whether the person was to be declared ceremonially unclean..."
- "Jewish law prohibited anyone with such a disease from associating with the general community. They had to be isolated and many times lived as outcasts until they died." So, without exception, every leper yearned for one thing: **To find healing.**
- One day, 10 lepers approached Jesus outside a village, loudly pleading with Him to heal them.

(Vs) Luke 17:11-14 - On the way to Jerusalem He was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

- It's interesting... Without seeming to do anything to heal them, Jesus merely gave the instruction to go show themselves to the priest.
- Important: At the moment of Jesus' instruction, the men were still lepers...No physical change had yet taken place...
- But, in faith, the men obeyed, AND as they began to walk to the priest, they were healed.

Consider: What might that have been like?

- To have literal pieces of your body restored to you...

All throughout scripture, Jesus operated this way... Requiring faith on the part of the person who asked for healing.

- ... Many times, Jesus asked those who wanted to be healed, *"Do you believe that I can do this?"* (e.g., Matthew 9:28; Mark 9:20-24).
- In the same way Jesus required a demonstration of faith on the part of the lepers in asking them to walk away, even before He had healed them...
- Note: The Bible does not record how far they had walked before being healed.

Question: What is God asking you turn toward in faith, so as to find your healing?

"Our repentance is not about turning away from Sin or Sickness, it's about turning towards God and his ways for your life."

One man returned to thank Jesus for the healing...

(Vs) Luke 17:15-16 – Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

- I'm not sure this man even made it to the priest... At least not the earthy priest... And Luke makes special mention of the fact that the one who returned was a Samaritan, a person despised by the Jews...

"Perhaps the more you don't belong, the more finally belonging means to you."

(Vs) Luke 17:17-18 – Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

Jesus expressed His disappointment that the other nine had not thought to give praise to God for their healing...

- Even though Jesus did not withhold healing from the nine who did not thank Him, He made a point of noting their lack of gratefulness...

"Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible."

From this we learn that God desires for us to express our thankfulness to Him for all He does in our lives.

(Vs) Psalm 147:7a – "Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving..."

My favorite part of the story... Now, clearly, because they had faith, all ten were physically healed.

(Vs) Col. 3:15 – “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

- But Jesus’ final words to the grateful Samaritan imply that this man received spiritual healing in addition to the cleansing of his skin...
- After the man was already healed of leprosy, (Vs) Luke 17:19 – And He (Jesus) said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”
- Could it be that the man’s return to fall at Jesus’ feet gave him spiritual wholeness in addition to the physical wholeness he had received?

“When we take time to acknowledge the Giver and not just the gifts, we please the Lord as well as enjoy the spiritual healing that comes from gratefulness.” Darrell Bock

Every day this coming week I’m going to post this little verse along with a new ‘Deed of God’ that I’m thankful for. Consider joining me!

(Vs) Psalm 66:5a ESV – “Come and see what God has done: He is AWESOME!”