



## EUCCHARISTIA: THE GENEROSITY OF GOD'S PRESENCE

November 17, 2019

Pastor Brad Williams

### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

#### MAIN TEXT(S):

*Luke 17:11-19; Matthew 6:25-34*

### SUMMARY

Gratitude can be difficult in our modern world because we often live out of a scarcity mindset. We often think that there isn't enough to go around, so we need to get all we can while we can. This causes us to focus on what we don't have rather than what we do. We become ungrateful. However, our God is not a God of scarcity. He is a God of provision, for that we should be grateful.

In the Gospel of Luke contains a story that reminds us that we should be grateful for what God provides. Jesus heals ten lepers of their leprosy, yet only one of the lepers returns to thank Jesus. This particular leper was a Samaritan, a person the Jews would have looked down on. This story reminds us that often those who know God best are least likely to thank God for his provision. We become used to God providing for us and cease to marvel at what he has done for us. Purposeful gratitude can help us combat this tendency. Only through gratitude can we keep our eyes and our hearts where they belong, the God who lovingly provides for us.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.*

#### LEAN IN

***These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What are you most grateful for this week?
2. What is something good in your life that you often take for granted?
3. When you hear the word "scarcity" what comes to mind?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week?  
What's one that you are dreading?

#### LOOK DOWN

***These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.***

***Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max***

1. What did the lepers ask Jesus to do for them in Luke 17:12-13? Why did they keep at a distance? (use info from the sermon, a Bible dictionary, or do a little internet research on leprosy in the ancient world if you need help answering this question)
2. What is unique about the way that Jesus healed these lepers?
3. What was the reaction of the lepers in Luke 17?
4. What is the significance of Jesus' words in Luke 17:18-19?
5. What does Matthew 6:25-34 teach you about God's provision?

#### LOOK OUT

***These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.***

***Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max***

1. Pastor Brad talked about how a scarcity mindset can keep us from being grateful. How have you seen this principle at work in the world?

2. The lepers had to go to the priest in faith. Jesus had promised they would be healed, but they weren't healed immediately. How have you seen people (either that you know or know of) walk in faith in a similar way?
3. Who do you know (or know of) that is a good example of living a life of gratitude to God? What do they do that displays their gratitude?
4. The one leper who returned to thank Jesus was a "heathen", a Samaritan. The "religious" lepers did not return. Have you noticed anything similar in our world? Have you seen non-Christians or new Christians display more gratitude than those who have been Christians for a long time? Why do you think this happens?
5. How does God provide for us today? What factors make gratitude for God's provision more difficult in our modern world?

### **LOOK IN**

*These are questions that help you consider personal application.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. How has a scarcity mindset impacted your ability to be grateful?
2. How has God honored your walk of faith in the past?  
How is He asking you to walk in faith presently?
3. Are you living a life of gratitude to God? What are you doing well in this area?  
How might you improve?
4. Has your gratitude to God increased or decreased as you have followed God?  
Why do you think this is?
5. How has God provided for you in the past? How can this past provision increase your gratitude and faith?

### **LIVE IT OUT**

*These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.*

*Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What one thing can you do this week to increase your gratitude to God?  
How can your group support you in this? Are there Scriptures that you could read/ memorize to help you in this endeavor?
2. Are you having difficulty walking in faith right now? How can your group pray for you and support you as you seek to believe that God will fulfill his promises?
3. How do you need God to provide for you this week? How can your group pray for this provision?