

and Jesus answering, said. "Were not ten made clean? Where are the other nine? Is there no one found to return and give glory to God but this stranger?"

The gentle way in which our Lord reproaches the nine lepers for their ingratitude has been for all ages a wonderful lesson. We are taught by this event that gratitude is a virtue most acceptable to God, nay more, that God expects it of us. St. Paul, in various passages of his epistles, insists on the obligation we are under to be grateful to God. "In everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God." (Ph. iv. 6). And elsewhere, "As, therefore, you have received Jesus Christ the Lord, walk ye in Him . . . abounding in Him in thanksgiving." (Col. ii. 6, 7). "All whatsoever you do in word or in work, do ye in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks always to God and the Father by Him" (ib. iii. 17). "We ought to give thanks always to God for you, brethren, as it is meet, because your faith hath increased exceedingly." (I. Thes. i. 3).

While recognizing our obligations to man, let us not stifle the natural impulse which prompts us to thank God for all His benefits. The reproaches that were made to the ungrateful nine lepers should never be made against us. "Thanks be to God," should be a familiar phrase with all of us, surging daily and hourly from hearts overflowing with gratitude. Thanks be to God for all the gifts that come from His hands in the material order; for the rays of the sun that warm us; for the rain that fertilizes our fields; for the food that strengthens our bodies; for the sleep that refreshes them. Thanks be to God for all His gifts in the spiritual order; for the supernatural lights that show us so clearly what to accept