

you know who that man was? He was the greatest man who ever lived in this world. Was he a king? He was greater than all the kings—he was the king of kings and yet he was a poor man. How could this be? I will tell you how it was. The Son of God had come down to live in this world. God, his Father, had sent him down here that he might die upon the cross for our sins. We are sinners, and the Son of God died that our sins might be forgiven. The Son of God was called Jesus. Oh, he was so kind and good, but he chose to be very poor. He could do wonderful things, and make sick people well only by speaking a word. The ten lepers had heard of this, and when they saw Jesus passing by, they called out very loud, "Jesus, Master have mercy on us." They did not dare to come near Jesus, but they hoped he would hear their voices. And he did hear them, and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." Now, the priests were ministers. God had said that when lepers were made well they should go first to the priests, and be looked at by them before they walked again about the streets. So when these lepers heard Jesus tell them to go to the priests, they knew that they should soon be quite well.

As they were walking towards the place where the priests lived, they grew well. Those hands that were covered with white sores, were now the same brown color they had been before. If the lepers looked at each other, they saw faces that were of a sickly white become rosy and healthy. And when the lepers saw this, did they go on, or did they turn back? One of them turned back, and only one; all the rest made haste to go to the priests. Why did that one turn back? It was that he might go to Jesus and thank him. As he went along, he praised God for his goodness with a loud voice. When he was sick, he had asked to be cured with a loud voice; and now he was well, he thanked God

with a loud voice. This was right.

When he came to Jesus, he fell down at his feet with his face to the ground and thanked him. Then Jesus said, "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." Now Jesus knew that this man who had come back was not of his own country. He was a stranger, or a foreigner, and he came from a land where the people knew very little about God, yet he loved God better than the other lepers did.

There are many people who pray to God when they are unhappy, and who forget to thank him when they are happy again. Is there a boy reading this book who was once in great distress? Had you once no food in the house? Did you pray to God for food? Did you get food? Did you thank God for it? Whenever God has given you any thing, or made you well, or got you out of trouble, he expects you to thank him. He knows how many men and women and children he has helped. Perhaps there were one hundred people very ill last night, and God has made them all better this morning, and perhaps only one thanks him. Then God says, "Where are the ninety and nine?"

God knows your name. If you do not thank him, he says, "Where is that little boy or that little girl? Why does not he come and thank me? I have been very kind to him." Do you know the greatest kindness God has ever shown you? He has given his Son to die for your sins. Did you ever once thank God for sending Jesus Christ to die upon the cross that you might not go to hell? If you have never thanked him yet, begin this day, and say, "O Father, I thank thee for sending the Lord Jesus Christ to die upon the cross to save sinners."

You may read this history in Luke 17, 11-19.