

Issue 13 - From Grumbling to Gratitude

(Luke 17:11–19)

Messy Story of the Week

The Martins had been in a bit of a slump lately. Dinner had become a quiet affair—too many sighs, not enough laughter. Between work deadlines, unfinished homework, and a dishwasher that refused to cooperate, small frustrations piled up like dirty dishes.

One Thursday evening, as Amy grumbled her way through the kitchen cleanup, her eight-year-old daughter, Chloe, climbed onto a stool beside her and began drying plates. In a sing-song voice, she started, *“Thank You, God, for dishes to clean.”* Amy smiled but kept scrubbing. Chloe added another verse: *“Thank You, God, for people who eat them. Thank You, God, for the hands that made the food.”*

Amy stopped mid-motion. Gratitude had just walked into the room and changed everything. The heaviness lifted, replaced by a quiet awareness of blessing. Chloe’s simple song became a reset button for the whole family.

That night, the kitchen felt different—still messy, but filled with grace. Gratitude had turned their wilderness of weariness into worship.

Faithful God Then and Now

In *Luke 17:11–19*, ten men with leprosy cry out to Jesus from a distance. He tells them, *“Go, show yourselves to the priests,”* and as they go, they are healed. But only one—a Samaritan—comes back to thank Him. Jesus asks, *“Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?”*

It's a scene that mirrors Israel's time in the wilderness. Both groups received mercy, yet only one heart recognized the true miracle. Gratitude became the dividing line between physical healing and spiritual wholeness.

God still meets us in those moments when frustration threatens to take over. Gratitude interrupts our grumbling and reorients our hearts toward the Giver. It's the way out of the wilderness—not because the circumstances change, but because we do.



What We Can Learn

1. **Grumbling blinds; gratitude restores sight.** The nine saw healing but missed the Healer.
 2. **Faith finds its voice in thanksgiving.** Gratitude is belief made audible.
 3. **Every complaint hides a longing to trust again.** Gratitude feeds that trust.
 4. **God's full healing often waits on our return.** Healing happened on the way; wholeness happened when the man turned back.
 5. **Gratitude multiplies grace.** The more we thank Him, the more aware we become of His abundance.
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Behind the Curtain

In coaching sessions, I often see couples or parents who feel stuck in the “wilderness.” They've prayed for a breakthrough but can't see it yet. The problem isn't always faith—it's focus. When we measure God's presence only by progress, we miss His faithfulness in the process.

Gratitude slows us down enough to notice grace at work. It turns *“I wish things were different”* into *“I'm amazed You're still with me here.”* That shift is where hearts begin to heal.



Faith Step for the Week

When irritation rises, pause and whisper:

“Lord, help me turn around like the one who came back.”

Then name one small grace in that exact moment—a meal, a face, a breath. Gratitude may not erase the mess, but it transforms how you move through it.

Bible Verse

“Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?”
— *Luke 17:17–18*

2-Minute Practice

1. Think of one area where you’ve been grumbling.
2. Write down three ways God has been faithful in that same place.
3. Say aloud: *“I return to You, Lord, with thanks for...”*
4. End by thanking Him for the ability to see His grace more clearly.