

We must not forget to show our thankfulness



We repeat the previous lesson and emphasize the focal point: the Lord Jesus teaches us not to forget to show our thankfulness. Those who thank the heavenly Father in word and deed, draw his good pleasure upon them.

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The children are encouraged to be thankful and to show their thankfulness.

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Simon wakes up early in the morning bathed in perspiration. He is feeling tired and weak. All his joints hurt. With some effort, he manages to sit up in bed. He touches his forehead—it feels hot. Simon calls his mother. “Mommy, I am sick,” he says plaintively. His mother looks at him with concern and finds that he is running a high temperature. She cares for him lovingly.

Simon lies in bed—he is feeling exhausted. Mother comes into the room: “Simon, let’s pray together. We’ll ask the Lord to help you so that you’ll soon be well again, but should the fever not go down, we’ll have to call the doctor.” They pray to the Lord for help.

That evening Simon still has fever; his condition has not improved. “Mommy,” he says, “now we have asked the Lord to help us. Why didn’t he?”

“I don’t know, Simon. We will just have to continue praying. I think you need a little patience in waiting for the Lord’s help. He does not always help in the way we wish. There are brothers and sisters in our congregation who have been sick for many years. Some will probably never get well again. They could think that the Lord does not want to help them. But he does. He gives them the strength to bear their ailments—he comforts them and wants them to grow in patience. We will pray again that he may help you and give you patience too.”

Simon really does need a lot of patience. The next day is Sunday. The fever has gone down markedly, but Simon still feels very weak and must remain in bed. And he had been looking forward to Sunday-school so much ..!

To his great surprise and delight the Sunday-school teacher pays him a visit the next day. He tells him what they discussed in Sunday-school: the story of the ten lepers.

1

Simon listens attentively. At the conclusion of the story, he remarks: “I would have acted exactly the same as the one who went back and said thank you.”

“Our heavenly Father is very happy about such behaviour. One could say that it really touches his heart,” the teacher remarks, and then he continues: “Ungrateful people take everything for granted and there are many things which one can really not take for granted at all. We should always thank God. We can bring thanks in word and deed.” Simon looks at his visitor questioningly. The teacher smiles and says: “We can show God our thankfulness by doing something which pleases him. At that time he spoke through Jesus Christ, today he speaks through God’s messengers. God considers following their advice the most beautiful sign of our thankfulness. Bartimaeus, whom you know well, did exactly that. It says of him that he followed the Lord Jesus. That was surely the greatest sign of thankfulness he could bring!”

Time has passed quickly. Simon is really happy with this

unexpected visit and thanks his teacher warmly. The teacher says good-bye and as he is leaving the room, remarks: "I'll daily ask the Lord to help you so that you may soon be well again. But don't forget to thank God when you are well again! You don't want to behave like the nine ungrateful ones, but as the one who was truly thankful, don't you!"

The next day Simon is a lot better. He thanks God especially for this in his prayers. He also does not want to forget to be truly thankful in future and to show this to the Lord, for in doing so he pleases him.

2/3/4



Our thankfulness pleases the Lord. We want to behave like the man who returned to thank the Lord sincerely for having healed him.

- 1 The children relate the story of the ten lepers with the aid of the two pictures in their book.**
- 2 We let the children explain what could be meant with "to thank in word and deed". (Thanking in prayer / doing what pleases God / thank-offering ...)**
- 3 Thankfulness causes joy in the heart of the giver. We do not want to forget that.
To whom have the children been especially thankful already?
How can one show one's thankfulness?
The children relate their own experiences.**
- 4 The children write "thank you" in different languages (e.g. danke, merci, grazie, obrigado ...).**

Thanks and pleading

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Ne - ver, Lord, let us for - get to be thank-ful and take cou - rage.



Grace you give, and light and life and the food which does us nou - rish.



All that good-ness you do give - take our heart - in you we live, you we live!

1. Never, Lord, let us forget
to be thankful and take courage.
Grace you give, and light and life
and the food which does us nourish.
All that goodness you do give -
take our heart - in you we live!

2. If in childlike trust we pray,
then our pray'rs with you find favour.
Patiently we wait for help
from our heav'nly Lord and Saviour.
Dearest Lord, please hear our plea:
Take us home to live with thee.