

# Short Talk

(SHT172)

## Are we thankful?

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ALL AGE WORSHIP  
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## SHORT TALK: “Are we thankful?”

- Aim of Short talk:** To challenge people to be thankful for every good gift that God gives them.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Thankfulness
- Biblical references:** Luke 17:11-19, James 1:17
- Lectionary:** Year C – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity
- Props:** You need ten one-pound coins, each individually wrapped up in some nice wrapping paper.

Who would like to receive a gift today? I am feeling rather generous! *(Choose 10 people)*

- Come and join me. *(Line up 10 people along the front of church and then hand out your wrapped-up coins)*

You can open your gift now. *(People open their gifts)*

- What do you think? Is that good? *(Receive responses)*

Now although you've been polite and thankful *(assuming they have been!)* I wonder how you are really feeling having received this gift.

- Some of you may be feeling grateful and are thinking: *“Wow, how lovely to receive this unexpected gift. Thank you very much.”*
- Others of you may be feeling a bit suspicious and are thinking: *“I wonder what N (your name) wants me to give them or do for them in return?”*
- Still others of you may be feeling a bit disgruntled and are thinking: *“Is that all my gift is – a one-pound coin?”*

There are all kinds of reactions to receiving gifts aren't there?

- I wonder what reaction Jesus wants us to have when we receive something good?

As we think about that let me tell you about a day when Jesus met ten men who had a terrible disease called leprosy.

- Now leprosy was a disease that in those days meant that you couldn't live with your family or friends anymore as it was so infectious, and often lepers were very poor.

When these ten men with leprosy saw Jesus, they called out asking Him to help them.

- Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests and as they did what He told them to do, they were all cured.
- They were all given a life-changing gift of health.

Now they could go back home and live with their families again.

- Now they could see their friends again and get a job again.

I wonder how they felt after they received this life-changing gift from Jesus?

- Luke's Gospel tells us that out of the ten men whom Jesus cured, only one man came back to Jesus.
- This man threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him. (Luke 17:15-16)
- This man was really grateful for the gift that He had been given.

I wonder how you would feel if you received a life-changing gift like that?

- I wonder how you would have felt today if instead of receiving a one-pound coin, you received something that you were desperate for;
- like healing from a painful illness, or a new job, or a good friend, or enough money to pay off a debt.
- Would you have been overflowing with thankfulness?

Well the wonderful truth is that we have all been offered a life-changing gift!

- We have been offered the very precious gift of eternal life, which is a life-giving relationship with God Himself.
- This gift was paid for by Jesus when He hung on the cross for our sins.

If you have already received this gift, how thankful are you?

- Do you thank Father God every day for what Jesus has done for you?
- And having done that, do you then notice the small gifts of love that He chooses to give you each day?

The book of James says: *"Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God...."* (James 1:17 Good News Version)

- So do you notice the gift of God's presence with you,
- and His gifts of Joy, peace, wisdom, strength, love, food, water, family, and so on?

We can get so used to the good gifts that Father God gives us that we can stop being thankful can't we, and take everything for granted?

- So my challenge to you today is this; start noticing all the good things in your life.
- See them as gifts from your loving Heavenly Father and thank Him for them.
- Try writing down 5 things that you are grateful for each day in a thankfulness book.

You will find that the simple action of thanking Father God for His good gifts not only pleases Him, but will also change you into a happier and more grateful person too.