

# Gratitude

We live in a society that is plagued with an **attitude of entitlement**.

- Those who feel like everyone owes them and they deserve more or better.

The opposite to an attitude of entitlement is the **virtue of Gratitude**.

**It is easier for us to grumble and complain than it is to give thanks.**

**How many times have we grumbled about our standard of living?**

**Compared to the majority of the world Australia is one of the most stable politically and economically.**

According to the **Social Progress Index** that measures which countries have the best standard of living.

**The "Social Progress Index" collates the scores of three main indexes:**

1. **Basic Human Needs:** includes medical care, sanitation, and shelter.
2. **Wellbeing:** covers education, access to technology, and life expectancy.
3. **Opportunity:** personal rights, freedom of choice, and general tolerance.

The index adds the three different factors together, and gives each nation a score out of 100.

**1. Finland - 90.09 2. Canada - 89.49 3. Denmark - 89.39 4. Australia - 89.13**

Aussies need to be more thankful for what we have rather than what we don't!

## **BIG IDEA Make gratitude our attitude!**

*Luke 17:11-18 As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem, he went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> He was going into a village when he was met by ten men suffering from a dreaded skin disease (leprosy). They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and shouted, "Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!"* Leprosy is one of the most painful diseases that you could ever imagine. Leprosy is very painful with oozing sores. The nerve endings are damaged and can cause disfigurement - a loss of fingers or toes.

The physical pain was bad enough, but according to **Leviticus 13**, whenever someone got close to a leper, the leper would scream out, "*Unclean, unclean!*" **Warning people to avoid them. It was very humiliating for them.**

**These people were not only physically hurting but were also suffering emotionally.** To have no close relationships, physical contact, intimacy; not to have been hugged maybe for months or years.

**These ten guys look across the street at the man that's been rumoured can heal people.** We can imagine the excitement! "*Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!*"

The next verse says that: *<sup>14</sup> Jesus saw them and said to them, "Go and let the priests examine you." On the way they were made clean.* Miracle, healed, the leprosy was gone! Their prayer had just been answered! *<sup>15</sup> When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He threw himself to the ground at Jesus' feet and thanked Him. The man was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Jesus spoke up, "Hang on,"*

you can almost imagine Jesus is gobsmacked. *“There were ten who were healed; where are the other nine?”* They were crying out, in their distress, their lives were basically nothing, they were going to live their remaining days alone. <sup>18</sup> *Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?”* But only one stopped to thank Jesus.

**The other nine walked off and didn’t show an attitude of gratitude.** They slipped into this entitled mindset. *“Well He was rumoured to be a healer and as a sick person I am entitled for Him to heal me.”*

**Unfortunately, ingratitude has become a way of life for many people.**

**Gratefulness is an attitude.**

*“If a fellow isn’t thankful for what he’s got, he isn’t likely going to be thankful for what he’s going to get.”* – Frank Clark

*“The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you.”* – John E. Southard

**Question:** Will you be the one to stop and show honour and gratitude?  
To daily pause and thank God for who He is and for what He has done for us?

Thanksgiving is the act of **expressing gratitude** to God for the blessings God has given us

***Psalm 107:1 (NLT) Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever.***

***Psalm 118:1 (CEV) Tell the Lord how thankful you are, because He is kind and always merciful.***

**And not just God, but let's think about the people that impact us.**

Will you be the one that stops long enough to write a thank you note to express your gratitude to someone who has impacted or blessed you?

Will you be the one today to say to those who are ministering to your children faithfully every week, *“Thank you for investing in my kids and serving our family,”*

Will you be the one to stop and say thank you to you to your Mom or thank you to your Dad.

As we grow as believers, we should identify an attitude of gratitude develop in our lives.

**Homework:** Write and post a handwritten card or note to thank someone this week.