**IT STARTS WITH AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**

In Luke 17 we read of the encounter Jesus had with the 10 people suffering from leprosy. An ugly and disgusting skin disease. These 10 people stood at a distance and shouted “Jesus, Master, show mercy to us!” Jesus said “God now and present yourselves to the priests for inspection of your disease”. (vv13&14)

What a miracle. Jesus did not have to say any special words or touch them or perform any kind of ritual. He simply sent them to be checked. On the way to the priests they were healed. They were freed of this terrible disease. Only one returned though to show his gratitude to Jesus, a Samaritan.

We can be in danger of receiving freedom and healing in so many ways from Jesus and forgetting to show thanks. Everything we have comes from God. He is our provider. How do we show our gratitude? Or do we just take what He gives and forget where it came from?

Max Lucado reminds us in *Everyday Deserves a Chance* that “gratitude is the firstborn child of grace, the appropriate response of the blessed”. In fact gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. Rather than living a life where we never feel we have enough or worrying about having enough we can approach life with God as one of abundance and plenty. It is not about getting what we want, that is quite different. This is about God providing for our needs. Putting Him first in our decisions, being grateful for what He has provided and allowing Him to show up in our lives.

Finances is an area which causes the most trouble in people’s lives these days. The desire for more and not managing what we have is not the foundation for a full life.

A few things to think about:

* How different would your life be if you were able to trust God just a bit more than you do now?
* How do you show gratitude to God for His provision?
* Do you include God in your financial decisions?
* How has God blessed you this week?