



## 5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

### Sermon: Forgive Me If I Have Been Ungrateful

**SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 11/16/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5**

#### Day 1: Known by Name

**Devotional:** Have you ever felt invisible in a crowd? Like no one really sees or understands you? Ten lepers knew this feeling intimately. Cast out from society, forced to live on the margins, they were reduced to shouting warnings to keep people away. Yet when Jesus encountered them, something beautiful happened - He saw them not as outcasts, but as individuals worthy of His attention and care. God's love for us is deeply personal. He doesn't see us as part of a faceless crowd or define us by our struggles, failures, or circumstances. Instead, He knows the intimate details of our lives - every worry that keeps us awake at night, every dream we carry in our hearts, every tear we've shed in private moments. This isn't just theological truth; it's the foundation of a relationship that transforms how we see ourselves and our place in this world. When life feels overwhelming and we struggle to fit in, we can find comfort in knowing that the Creator of the universe knows us by name. Our value isn't determined by society's labels or our own perceived shortcomings. We matter to God not because of what we do, but because of who we are - His beloved children. This truth becomes the anchor for our souls when everything else feels uncertain.

**Bible Verse:** 'Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.' - Psalms 103:1-5

**Reflection Question:** In what areas of your life do you feel unseen or misunderstood, and how might knowing that God knows you by name change your perspective on those situations?

**Quote:** The Bible tells us that even he knows the number of hair on our head. Even each time an insignificant sparrow falls to the ground, he's aware of it. And it tells us of his great care for us. Yes, he knows us by name.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank You for seeing me when I feel invisible and knowing me when I feel unknown. Help me to find my identity in Your love rather than in the opinions of others. When I struggle to fit in this world, remind me that I belong to You. Amen.

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#### Day 2: Faith in Motion

**Devotional:** Imagine being told to go show yourself to a priest while still covered in the evidence of your disease. The ten lepers faced this exact scenario when Jesus gave them what seemed like an impossible instruction. They had to choose between staying where they were, waiting for visible proof of healing, or stepping forward in faith while still appearing sick. Their decision to obey reveals a profound truth about faith - it often requires us to move before we see the results. Faith isn't passive waiting; it's active trust that propels us forward even when circumstances haven't changed yet. As these men walked toward the priests, their healing manifested with each step. The miracle happened in the journey of obedience, not in the comfort of staying put. In our own lives, we often face moments where God calls us to step forward before we have all the answers. Maybe it's pursuing a calling that seems beyond our abilities, extending forgiveness when we don't feel ready, or trusting God's provision when resources seem scarce. Like the lepers, we must learn to discern when God is calling us to move in faith rather than wait for perfect conditions. Sometimes the blessing comes not in the destination, but in the courage to take the first step.

**Bible Verse:** 'In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.' - James 2:17

**Reflection Question:** What step of faith is God calling you to take right now, even though you can't see the full outcome yet?

**Quote:** As they went, they were healed. And certainly there are times we talk about this, that we need to be still before God, that we need to distill and wait on him to move. And then there are times that we are to go forward in him.

**Prayer:** Lord, grant me the wisdom to know when to step forward in faith and when to wait on You. Help me to be sensitive to Your voice and courageous enough to obey even when I can't see the complete picture. Give me faith that moves. Amen.

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#### Day 3: The Grateful Heart

**Devotional:** Picture the scene: ten men receive complete healing from a devastating disease that had stolen their lives, relationships, and futures. Yet only one returns to say thank you. This wasn't just poor manners - it revealed something deeper about the human heart. Nine out of ten people, even after experiencing a miracle, failed to acknowledge the source of their blessing. This statistic might shock us, but if we're honest, we can probably see ourselves in those nine. How often do we pray desperately for something, receive an answer, and then quickly move on without pausing to express gratitude? We get so caught up in the next challenge, the next need, the next worry that we forget to celebrate what God has already done. The Samaritan who returned didn't just receive physical healing - he received something far greater. His gratitude opened the door to a deeper relationship with Jesus and spiritual salvation. Gratitude isn't just good manners; it's a spiritual discipline that keeps our hearts soft and our eyes open to God's ongoing work in our lives. When we cultivate thankfulness, we position ourselves to receive not just God's gifts, but God Himself.

**Bible Verse:** 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?' - Luke 17:17

**Reflection Question:** What recent answered prayers or blessings have you forgotten to thank God for, and how can you develop a more consistent practice of gratitude?

**Quote:** Were not 10 cleansed, but where are the 9?

**Prayer:** Father, forgive me for the times I've been like the nine who forgot to return with thanks. Help me to develop a heart that consistently recognizes and celebrates Your goodness. May gratitude become a natural response to Your faithfulness in my life. Amen.

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#### Day 4: Leveled by Grace

**Devotional:** In their suffering, something remarkable happened among the ten lepers - social barriers disappeared. A Samaritan, typically despised by Jews, found himself alongside Jewish lepers without conflict. Their shared struggle created an unexpected unity. Pain has a way of stripping away the artificial divisions we create and revealing our common humanity. This teaches us something profound about God's grace. When we come to Jesus, our backgrounds, mistakes, and social status become irrelevant. The ground at the foot of the cross is level - we all approach as broken people in need of healing. Whether we're the respected religious leader or the outcast, the wealthy or the poor, the educated or the simple, we all need the same Savior. Too often, we let labels define us or others. We categorize people by their past, their appearance, their circumstances, or their choices. But Jesus sees only two categories: lost and found. He extends the same invitation to everyone - come to Him. No matter what this world has labeled you, no matter how you've labeled yourself, no matter what others have said about you, the invitation stands. You belong at His table.

**Bible Verse:** 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' - Matthew 11:28

**Reflection Question:** What labels or categories do you use to separate yourself from others, and how might seeing everyone through Jesus' eyes change your relationships?

**Quote:** I'm thankful no matter what this world labels us or we've been labeled by ourselves even, or maybe our loved one has labeled us a particular way. I'm thankful that the invitation is to us.

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for seeing beyond all the labels and categories that divide us. Help me to see others as You see them - as people in need of Your love and grace. Break down the walls I've built and help me extend the same grace I've received. Amen.

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#### Day 5: Counting Our Blessings

**Devotional:** We live in a world where 1.4 to 1.7 million people die annually from unclean water, where 733 million face hunger as a way of life, not just an occasional inconvenience. Yet here we are, most of us with clean water flowing from our taps, food in our refrigerators, and roofs over our heads. We are among the most blessed people who have ever lived on this planet. So why is gratitude still so difficult? Perhaps it's because we've grown accustomed to abundance. What should amaze us has become ordinary. What should inspire thanksgiving has become expected. We focus on what we lack rather than celebrating what we have. This isn't just about material blessings - we have spiritual freedoms, relationships, opportunities, and hope that billions throughout history could only dream of. The antidote to ingratitude isn't just counting our blessings once in a while - it's developing a lifestyle of thanksgiving. When we regularly acknowledge God's goodness, our perspective shifts. Problems don't disappear, but they're put in proper context. We begin to see that we have far more reasons to praise than to complain. This grateful heart becomes a magnet for joy and a testimony to others of God's faithfulness.

**Bible Verse:** 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Reflection Question:** If you made a list of 100 things you're grateful for, what would be in your top ten, and how might regularly reviewing this list change your daily outlook?

**Quote:** We have a lot to be thankful for. Amen. If we'll take time and count our blessings.

**Prayer:** God, open my eyes to see the countless ways You bless me every day. Help me to develop a heart that naturally overflows with gratitude rather than complaint. May my thankfulness be a testimony to others of Your goodness and faithfulness. Amen.

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