



Daily Reflections

November 14, 2018

Scripture

Luke 17: 11-17

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem,
he traveled through Samaria and Galilee.

As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him.

They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying,
"Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!"

And when he saw them, he said,

"Go show yourselves to the priests."

As they were going they were cleansed.

And one of them, realizing he had been healed,
returned, glorifying God in a loud voice;
and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him.

He was a Samaritan.

Jesus said in reply,

"Ten were cleansed, were they not?"

Where are the other nine?"

Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

Then he said to him, "Stand up and go;
your faith has saved you."

Our Scripture Reflection

In this month during which we celebrate the national holiday of Thanksgiving, today's Gospel reading takes on special meaning. Jesus' point in His story is to show us that only one man, a man who was looked upon as an outcast because he was a Samaritan returned to thank and praise God. The one who was considered least likely to be grateful because he was presumed to be the least religious was humble and faith-filled. The lesson for us? If you really want to be thankful, become humble first.

Food for your Journey

Gary Langness expresses very well the positive impact that gratitude can have on others. "Just up the street from the church where I work there is my favorite place to eat, McDonald's. It is more than just another restaurant. It is owned by a woman who has a commitment to hiring and patiently nurturing folks with disabilities. One young man from this congregation was hired and it gave him pride and self-esteem. One day as the owner handed me my favorite meal I looked at her and said, 'Jane, I just want to say thanks to you for what you do on behalf of so many people. You really make a difference.' She was a bit surprised at my comment, blushed and smiled. Every time I see her, she is smiling and still hiring and working with people to change their lives."

Say it! Thank you! Write it! Look for opportunities to say it or write it!

Thankfulness builds up the body of Christ. Say a word of thanks. Write a note of thanks. Develop the habit of passing on a compliment that you have heard. A stewardship of life includes a large dose of saying, "Thank you." A spirit of thankfulness begins as a child reaches out a hand to take a cookie. Thanks, Mom or Dad, for insisting your child learns to say, "Thank you." It builds up the body of Christ.

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, Your kindness to me is far beyond what I can imagine. You give me what I need before I am even aware of my need! Make me humble as was the Samaritan. May I realize that I am completely dependent upon Your mercy. May I never stop thanking and praising You. Amen