



# Daily Reflections

**November 24, 2016**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 17:11-19**

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

As he was entering a village, ten persons with leprosy met him.  
They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, 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."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Luke's Gospel is known as the "Gospel of the Outcast." Why? Because more than the other Gospel writers, he pictures people considered to be despicable as the ones who "get it." In today's text for Thanksgiving Day, only one cleaned leper, the bitterly despised Samaritan, returns to say thank you to Jesus for having healed him. Why him? Perhaps by living each day at the bottom of the social ladder, he was really grateful for the crumbs in life. That a Jew would stop and give him the time of day was mind boggling for him, let alone that this "Jew" would heal him. Perhaps it takes a "rock bottom" experience to appreciate what we receive. Ask any recovering addict.

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## **Food for your Journey**

"You must be very thankful to God for all you have," I exclaimed. The retort shocked me. "I'll have you know I've earned all I have." People today don't think of God as providing shelter, clothes, transportation and food. When Thanksgiving Day comes along, they're glad for the four-day weekend. They head for the golf course.

Nabal, a rich character in the Old Testament of the Bible, was like this. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats. Even though there was war in Israel, Nabal's flocks were protected by a young man named David. David camped in the area and no one dared harm Nabal's sheep or goats. When David was in need of food, would Nabal offer help? Not on your life. "Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men whose origin I do not know?" (1 Samuel 25:11). Look at what Nabal said. "It's my bread, my water, my meat."

God causes the grain to grow so we have bread to eat. God causes the animals to gain weight so we can have hamburgers and steaks. God makes water flow in rivers and streams so we can drink. We should give thanks to God for these things rather than just patting ourselves on the back.

—Dennis J. Prutow, "Our gratitude to God," Daily Wisdom Web Site, [Gci.gospelcom.net](http://Gci.gospelcom.net).

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Precious Lord, On this most special of days and as I count all of my blessings, help me to humbly realize that blessings are not "winnings", but rather, pure gifts. May I become a truly grateful person. Amen.

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