

Daily Reflections

The Divine Intervention

November 11, 2015

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 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

Today's Gospel text found only in Luke is meant to be an "eye opener." Ten desperate lepers approach Jesus begging to be healed. The fact that they got so close to Jesus

underscores their desperation because The Law forbade lepers from being so to a non-leprous person. By allowing Himself to be close to the lepers, Jesus risks making Himself ritually unclean in the eyes of the religious teachers and leaders. Jesus heals them all but only one, an outcast, comes back to say thank you. What happened to the others? No need for gratitude?

Food for your Journey

Gary Langness is a pastor and stewardship leader. He 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.

Gary Langness, "On Saying Thank You." Luthersem.edu

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, how often I have been just like the nine ungrateful lepers, crying out to You during my time of desperation and after You provide for me, I go along my merry way with an ungrateful smile on my face. Lord, help me to change. Give me a grateful heart so that I will always say thank you, especially for the simple and precious gifts. Amen.