

"With Thankful Hearts"

Saturday, November 13



"The Only One"

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." Luke 17:11-19

Why are we reluctant to give thanks? We forget that we have something to be thankful for! In this great miraculous healing of Jesus the lepers shout to Jesus to have pity on them. They were excluded from community because of their disease. But Jesus did more than just pity them, or throw them a bit of food or coins...he HEALED them. A miracle! He told them to go to the priest, who would pronounce them clean and able to be part of the community again. "And as they went, they were cleansed." And they were incredulous and rushed to the priest so that they could be re-united with their families and normal life.

But there was one of them who came back. He stopped and thought about the miracle. He recognized that praising was the first response before reunion. And not only did he have leprosy but he was a Samaritan. A double outcast. And Jesus said, "has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner? ...your faith has made you well." We must remember to give thanks for what God has done.