



Lectionary Bible Study Our Savior Lutheran Church

Thanksgiving, 2020
Readings Readings and Psalm
Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Psalm 65,
2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Luke 17:11-19

[Click here](#) to join Pastor Mark for a Live Zoom conversation each Wednesday at 10am.

Meeting ID: 868 8793 0554

Password: 654321

Or dial in for audio only: 1-301-715-8592

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten leper approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?” ¹⁸ Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

As Jesus traveled towards Jerusalem between Samaria and Galilee, a group of ten lepers approached him. Due to their disease, they were forbidden to come near people, so they kept their distance.

- 1. What would it have been like to be a leper in the first century?*
- 2. In this time of Covid-19, can we better relate to the hardships related to distancing, not only for the sick, but also for family and friends?*

It is not clear if the lepers had been waiting for Jesus to come to their village entrance or if the visit was a surprise. Either way, their prayer was a simple one, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” Most certainly it caught the attention of Jesus.

- 3. How might the lepers hoped Jesus would extend mercy to them?*
- 4. Define and describe mercy.*

Jesus saw the lepers but did not immediately heal them. Instead, he instructed them to go and show themselves to their priest. Did the lepers rush to the priest convinced that they were healed and were eager to receive the blessing? Did they think Jesus was brushing them off? Were they filled with hope at the possibility of being healed? Were they simply obedient?

5. *How might the lepers react to the words of Jesus?*

It is unclear exactly how the lepers knew they healed “as they went.” What is clear is that only one leper noticed his own healing AND returned to give thanks. He turned back and retraced his steps in order to personally thank the giver of the gift. This was not a quiet, meek word of thanks. Instead, he praised God with a loud voice. He threw himself on the ground at the feet of Jesus and thanked him.

6. *What do you make of the nine who did not return? Were they ungrateful? Distracted? Have other priorities?*

7. *What did they miss out on by not returning to give thanks?*

For those in the first century, it would have been shocking to realize the grateful man was a Samaritan, the least likely to do the right and proper thing. Yet, Jesus blessed him with a second blessing. “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.” Earlier the leper had been cured of a physical ailment, but in his second interaction with the leper Jesus made him whole.

8. *Is there a difference between being cured and being made whole?*

Gratitude – that is the theme of the story of the ten lepers! Jesus showed mercy to them by healing them. No longer did they need to live in isolation, but Jesus gave them back their life.

9. *Pause to consider what you are grateful for today. How do you show God your gratitude?*