

## Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

March 31, 2019

### LUKE

#### *But It's Not November*

Luke 17:11-19

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

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

#### DISCUSSION

As we journey alongside Jesus to the cross at this halfway point during Lent, we see Him making his way to Jerusalem for the Passover feast, traveling through regions for the last time where He has performed his ministry. Ten lepers approach Jesus, a Samaritan being among them; their common affliction having driven them together in spite of their racial hatred. They plead with Jesus to heal them, and He immediately responds - seemingly without outward sympathy or emotion, telling them simply to go and show themselves to the priest which was the cultural protocol.

Only one leper – the Samaritan no less, none of the nine Jews – turned around on his way to the priest to thank Jesus. The Lord publicly notes the indifference and ingratitude of the nine in contrast to the thanksgiving of the tenth: "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" **Though all ten lepers were healed, how was the tenth blessed not just physically but spiritually?**

If gratitude was a result of circumstances, all ten would have turned around to give thanks to Jesus. Studies show that that people who choose gratitude are more resilient, more optimistic, more empathetic, and have improved relationships. In worship, we were invited to write on one side of a notecard something specific for which we are thankful. On the back, we noted the circumstances which allowed that to happen. **Discuss your answers. Just as the leper turned around to thank Jesus - not simply rejoicing in his healing - why is the source of our thankfulness so crucial for us to realize?**

**As we continue our journey through Lent, consider how can you use reflections of gratitude as a spiritual discipline. Often we think of what we should give up, Thomas said, but the point is to take that energy and time and turn to God.**

*A grateful heart knows that to express its gratitude is the highest duty, and is necessary for its own relief. How like us all it is to hurry away clutching our blessings, and never cast back a thought to the giver!*

*Thankfulness knits us to Jesus with a blessed bond. We increase the sweetness of our gifts by thankfulness for them.*

*We taste them twice when we ruminate on them in gratitude.*

**from the writings of Alexander Maclaren, early 20<sup>th</sup> century pastor and theologian**