Thanksgiving 2026
"The One", Luke 17:11-19

As we gather and prepare, not only for what God is going to do today, but for Thanksgiving this coming week… We turn our focus to thanksgiving. To gratitude.

Thanksgiving **and** ***gratitude*** **are prevalent themes in Scripture. There are…**

Many commands…

One of the most well-known –

Psalm 100:4 - *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

The most often repeated –

Psalm 107:1 - *O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

New Testament –

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

Cautions…

Deuteronomy 6:12 - "*beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."*

Romans 1

21. *…when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

22. *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

G. K. Chesterton

"Thanks are the highest form of thought… gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

Today, rather than just instruction, we turn to a story. A living illustration. As we witness, and wonder, hopefully the story from long ago will intersect with ours this morning, and we will leave with truly grateful hearts.

Luke 17

11. And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

Jesus encountered 10 desperate, dying men. 10 lepers.

Notice…

I. The Men.

A. We don't know much more than the brokenness that defined them.

We don't know…

- Family?
- Fortune?
- Jobs?
- Friends?

We don't have a clue -

- Short or tall?
- Skinny or not?
- Young or old?
- Smart or not so…

B. What we know is that they were lepers.

- **For many, leprosy was a living death sentence. It could destroy their lives long before it took their lives**

And there were ten of them!

C. One more thing about these men – the main thing, really, is why they are here in Scripture.

13. ***And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.***

They met and cried out to Jesus!

Our story turns from them – to Jesus. All eyes were on Him.

- **How would He respond to a hopeless, desperate situation?**
- **How would He respond to these outcasts?**

Luke 17

14. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests.

II. The Master

A. Jesus chose the route that led Him to them!

17:11 - "***as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria"***

Just as He did in John 4 when He met the woman at the well, Jesus passed through "the midst of Samaria". He went right to where they were.

Those ten men didn't have access to heaven's calendar. They didn't know Jesus was coming, but their encounter was no surprise to Him. What appeared to them to be a chance meeting was a divine appointment.

B. Jesus stopped His journey.

He could be bothered.

For the moment, these men mattered more than a destination on a map. In fact, in this moment, this was His destination!

C. Jesus saw them.

Broken. Begging.

Marginalized.
Outcast. Hopeless.

D. Jesus spoke an answer!

"Go shew yourselves unto the priests."

- Logical or sensible? No.
- Detailed? No.
- Sensational? No.

Simple, spoken words. Doable words. His answer!

III. The Miracle. 17:14

A. The Response of faith:

They believed. How do we know?

What they did demonstrated their belief:

"as they went"

Before they ever arrived at the temple, God worked His wonder!

That moment of faith fulfilled what God asked!

B. The Result

"they were cleansed"

- **All 10. None were left out.**
- **Healed!**

IV. The Message.

The message of our text is not only that Jesus can meet every need, but what should happen in our lives when He does!

What would *they* do now with a new lease on life?

Many options.
A whole new world.
A long list of wants and desires, all made possible now because of Jesus!

Our text: vs. 15-19

15. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,
16. And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.
17. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

18. There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.
19. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

A. The Nine.

Did they go on to the temple as Jesus had instructed?
We don't know anything beyond this moment. We simply know that they were healed.

B. The One!

Rather than disappearing off the pages into the life Jesus made possible, one cleansed leper turned around and worshipped the One who gave Him life!

What is appropriate, anyway, after a miracle like that?

Vs. 15 - "***With a loud voice glorified God***"
He shouted!
He wanted everyone to hear!
He publicly, unashamed, actually totally unaware of self – glorified God!

Vs. 16 -

- He "***fell down on his face at Jesus' feet***"
- "***Giving Him thanks***"

- **He was a Samaritan!** ***A whole sermon in a simple word!***
  Samaritans – second class at best
  Hated, marginalized
  The least likely!
  Not the "chosen" - *Yet He Was!!*

C. The question – *and our message*:

17. ***And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?***

D. Their answer:

18. There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

Just one.

E. Jesus' final message to the One- then and now!

1. 19. ***And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.***

- The obvious: **This leper's faith in Jesus' words, evidenced by his actions, brought healing to him, just as the other nine.**

- **It seems that Jesus is not just stating the obvious**, ***but more***. ***Not just healing, but wholeness.***
  - To **a desperate woman** who touched them hem of His garment, He spoke – "thy faith hath made thee whole."

- To **a blind man** who cried out to Jesus, "thy faith hath made thee whole."
- Now – to **a cleansed leper bowing before Him, worshipping Him, thanking Him**, Jesus says – "*thy faith hath made thee whole*."

- I think the wholeness is more than healing, It is the wholeness that can only come from personal relationship with God!

2. Then, to the one who came back, bowed before and worshipped Him, glorifying God, Jesus said, ***"Arise, go thy way"***

A new life had begun, literally!

Though it would be appropriate to stay at Jesus feet, bowed before Him forever, true worship and thanksgiving evidences itself in the life we then live!

It was as if Jesus was saying,
"***I've given you life to live – Go live it. Fully. Abundantly. Eternally!"***

Ten were healed.

- **Jesus asked,** "***Where are the nine?"*** Nine disappeared, healed…
  His question hangs in the air, unanswered, today…

- **One…**
  - **Miraculously healed, came back.**
  - **Filled with wonder, worshipped Jesus!**
  - **Pouring out thanks at Jesus' feet, boldly and loudly gave thanks!**

Then what?

We don't know.

I think we'll be able to ask him one day, maybe soon! What do you think?

I do know that God left us his story, for us. So, let me ask a couple of simple questions –

Are you the one today, desperate, hopeless, searching for an answer?

Jesus sees you. Loves you. Has come through His word and Spirit right now to right where you are: He is the answer. Your answer. Will you trust him?

For those of us who have been changed forever because of Jesus,
Will we be one of the nine…

Or,

Will we be THE ONE, here, today, that turns back to Him…

- And bows
- And worships
- And pours out our thanks from truly grateful hearts,
- And leave living the life He makes possible?!