

Sermon Series: Take Heart
“Thankful Hearts”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Reading: *Luke 17: 11-19* NRSV

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

Discussion Questions:

1. What verse particularly jumped out at you? Why?
2. What are you most thankful for this Thanksgiving?
3. Why did Jesus like to choose Samaritans—like the Good Samaritan and the Grateful Samaritan?
4. Leprosy inflicted not only physical harm. How would a positive diagnosis of leprosy impact a person socially? Spiritually?
5. Jesus’ healing involved both delay and distance, rather than immediate healing with his physical touch. Why do you think Jesus asked the lepers to go show themselves to the priest while they still had leprosy? Have you ever been impacted positively by someone from a distance?
6. Why do you think the other nine didn’t come back? Can you imagine some possible reasons they didn’t thank Jesus? Why did the one return to Jesus? What did he do? Why do you think it was a Samaritan and not a Jew that came back?
7. How has the former-leper’s social distancing from Jesus changed in his second encounter?
8. Leprosy alienated the unclean from the clean. The temple alienated Jew from Gentile. How did Jesus bring people together?
9. How might gratitude to Jesus bring about even deeper healing in us?
10. How does Jesus function like the temple for us?