

Nine?

Inter-Generational Worship

Luke 17:11-19

Richard C. Allen

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South Glastonbury
Connecticut

These are the happiest people in the world!
They have been set free from a skin disease that has isolated them from their friends and family; robbed them of their dignity; and cheated them out of happiness. Their leprosy is gone!

So, when they are healed, they are the happiest people in the world. One returns to thank Jesus. Where are the other nine? This is a good question! It's a Thanksgiving Day for all Ten! I think each one finds a way to celebrate. The one who remembers to say 'thank you' is the one we sort of like because we've all been raised in homes where saying 'thank you' is a very high value.

+I am guessing that one of the nine was so happy he ran all the way home to hug his mother because he hadn't been hugged for years! And what better way to celebrate than with a bear hug!

+I am guessing that one of the nine was so happy he ran to the ice cream store and bought double scoop cones for all his old friends because ice cream is a great way to celebrate a new beginning with your old friends!

+I am guessing that one of the nine galloped all the way to his school where the band was practicing for the Thanksgiving Day parade. He grabbed his trumpet and blew into that mouth piece with all his might because making music is a great way to celebrate the dawning of a new day!

+I am guessing that one of the nine ran to the Hallmark store to buy a thank you card so he could write a hand-written thank you note to Jesus because his mother had taught him that a hand-written note is the BEST way to express your joy!

+I am guessing that one of the nine ran all the way across town to the newspaper office to tell his story to the editor so others might read his story and find hope as he had found hope!

+I am guessing that one of the nine was just halted right there in his tracks. He took out a little mirror from his fanny pack and stared into that mirror; stared into his own transformation; stared at what he could only describe as a miracle. He just stood there the rest of the day feeling thankful!

+I am guessing that one of the nine remembered how he and his girl friend used to sit on the porch swing holding hands, and how all that had come to a screeching halt when he was diagnosed with leprosy. Like one running the 100 yard dash, he sprinted to that front porch to hold the hand of his sweetie once again. He was just so thankful to be touchable again!

+I am guessing that one of the nine did what came most naturally: he started to sing! And pretty soon, the whole village was singing along with him. “Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! And the singing went on all afternoon. Singing was this one’s way of saying, ‘thank you!’

+I am guessing that the last of the nine rushed to the local market, bought a turkey, some potatoes and green beans, some lettuce and cucumbers, some apples and oranges; some yams and some onions, baked everything into an amazing feast, and invited all the neighbors to break bread with him.

All of this is really a way of saying to the whole church today: however you want to do it; whatever way is meaningful; take the time to thank God for the blessings that have come into our lives. It's when we say 'thank you' that we are able to remain in the greatest of hope. Amen!