

The Question of the Week

“Ten were cured were they not? Where are the other nine?
Has no one returned to give thanks except this foreigner?”

Luke 17: 19

In seven weeks, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving Day both in our families and as a nation. For many this holiday is one of their favorites. There is not the crush that accompanies Christmas nor the Easter/ Springtime balance. This holiday is just about giving thanks, both personally and as a nation, for the blessings we have received in life. Thanksgiving Day is also a favorite not just because of the abundance of food. It really is a day off . It feels as if there is more freedom on this day than on other holidays. The pace is a bit slower. There is time for some simple things. For the men there is also football. It speaks of family and good food and the simple joy of being together. It also focuses us on all the reasons we have to be thankful.

Recently I have been thinking about the spirit of gratitude in my own life. For many years I have adopted a very simple expression. “Thank you, Jesus!” I can say it at any time and for any reason. It is short and so, easy to remember. It speaks not just from my lips but from my heart. And it sends my gratitude in the right direction every time. Because whatever good happens to us, it emanates from the Lord of Life who took on our flesh and lived our life and sacrificed himself for us, so that we would not be lost, but saved. “Thank you, Jesus!”

But what came to me was all the things for which I have prayed. Not for myself but for others. For you. For my family and loved ones. What came to me was that as much as I pray I do not so easily and readily give thanks to God for all the prayers that have been answered. I ask wholeheartedly. Would that I thanked God as wholeheartedly. So, in thinking about this I made a little resolution that I would try to be more “in the moment” with my gratitude to God for all that He has done for me and the way he has always responded to my requests for assistance. Can you follow me in this and make it part of your own life as well? That is the question of the week.