

# REFLECTION OF GRACE

A Weekly Reflection on Stewardship from our Members



**Sunday, October 9 | Gospel**  
**Luke 17: 11-19**



On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

When Jesus saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean.

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

## **THE PARABLE OF THE TEN LEPERS**

**By Diana Baker**

The parable in Luke 17:11-19 about the ten lepers teaches us several lessons. The first is about faith. Only one of the lepers returned and praised God and lay before Jesus, thanking him. I am constantly moving in my faith in both my work and life. When I was younger, I seemed to speak to God when I needed something. As I became older (and wiser), I learned that I needed to walk strong in my faith at all times and not only ask things from God but worship and praise him daily. I now thank God on a daily basis for all the things that have been bestowed upon me in my work and personal life. I still ask many things of God, but I am most thankful for who I am, where I've been, and where I am going. Jesus told the lone leper, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." We should all walk in faith through the good and bad times alike.

The second lesson from this parable is that you won't always be thanked. It amazes me that nine of the ten lepers whom Jesus healed went on their way without thanking Him. I couldn't imagine not thanking God for all the things I have and I have done. I work long hours, and I thank God daily for the talented people he brings to my organization, the funding bestowed upon our organization, and the daily blessings in my personal life and family. Thankfulness is walking in faith!

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I have had many thanks from many people but in response to that I always say, "I give my Lord & Savior the thanks, honor and glory for all that we do at Kids-U". We all may do many amazing and wonderful things, but expecting gratitude can make you bitter. It's best to give thanks than expect thanks.

The third lesson in this parable is that foreigners may show you more honor. When this foreigner came back to thank Jesus, he asked "where are the other nine?" I believe this is true in today's world. We work with many children and families from all different cultures and countries. In my experience, foreigners seem so much more appreciative and thankful. Could it be the culture in our country is to expect? When Jesus was in his hometown, he didn't do many miracles because the people were so familiar with him that they questioned his power. In response, Jesus said, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, and among his own relatives and in his own home" (Mark 6:4)

It all comes down to walking in our faith, being thankful and not expecting thanks, and understanding that people you may not know are more thankful for who you are and what you do.

I've been an Ascension member for 12 years and first visited after meeting Dabney Dwyer. I was on the board of the Ascension Day School when it started as a parent's day out program and served until seven years ago. I'm a proud mom of two kids, Stephanie and Brandon, and an extremely proud grandparent of four grandchildren Baker, William, Peyson and two-week-old granddaughter Emerly! My passion has always been children and I have worked in the education field for almost 40 years. I currently serve as the Executive Director and Co-Founder of KidsU, improving the lives of low income kids.

