

Thanksgiving

Introduction:

The psalmist reminds us of a simple truth in Psalm 92, opening with these words, "It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord." This time of year, more than any other, prompts us to call to mind the things for which we are grateful. This is a good thing. At the same time, the story in Luke's gospel of ten men who experienced a miraculous healing, shows us something deeper.

It is likely that the ten men who are healed feel grateful. Through this healing, they are cured of leprosy, a disease that was not only painful, but isolating. Because of Jesus, they are cured of their physical disease, but even more, they are brought back into their communities of love and support and blessing. They must be grateful for that. Nine feel it, but one goes even further.

One of these men comes to Jesus and thanks him personally. In this he becomes a model for us. When we feel gratitude, for our salvation and for all the other blessings, we should go to the one who gives us something to be grateful for. We must return to Jesus and thank him for all he has done. We can do this in other areas of our lives as well, giving thanks for the people that God has placed in our lives. This Thanksgiving, may we do just that!

Read Your Bible

- Psalm 107:1
- Luke 17:11-19

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. What are some things you are grateful for in your life?
2. Where did they come from?
3. Who are you grateful for?
4. Look at the story from Luke's Gospel again. How do you think the lepers felt when they were healed?
5. Why did one of them go back?
6. Why are you thankful for Jesus? Have you told him?
7. Why are you thankful for the people in your life? Have you told them?
8. In light of what you have learned from the one leper who returned, how will you give thanks this Thanksgiving?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Oh Lord, you have blessed us with many gifts. From family, to friends, to food you fill our lives with good things. You give us your son. In him we have forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. For this we give you our thanks. May we live with grateful hearts, and voices that speak thanks to the people in our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.