

Ten Lepers, Thankfulness, and Stewardship

Stewardship is not just about giving. It begins by realizing all of God's many blessings. Today's Gospel reading, Luke 17:11-19, is about Jesus meeting 10 men who have leprosy on his way to Jerusalem. He healed them and told them to "go & show themselves to priests" so they could be judged clean physically and socially. The men faithfully do as Jesus said, eager to resume a normal life.

Later, only one of the men returns to thank Jesus. This man is grateful and kneels before Jesus to loudly thank him. Jesus **tells** the man that his faith has made him well physically. Jesus **knows** that this grateful man has recognized this blessing and has been healed spiritually as well.

We might ask ourselves, "Would we have moved on to the busyness of our lives or would we stop to thank God for His blessing? And, when we ask God for answers to our many prayers, would we have thanked God as **loudly** as we asked Him?"

Many sermons this year at ECA have boiled down to- let others see Christ working through us. As we ponder about true stewardship is it more than just giving money? It is giving our time, our talents, and our treasure to glorify all that God has blessed us with.

There are many opportunities to give your time by reaching out & caring for others and getting involved in the many ministries at ECA. The opportunities to encourage and influence others are countless! How can you commit yourself to giving time so that others may see Christ working through us?

God has blessed all of us with unique talents & gifts. How can we share these wonderful gifts to make our church and world better so others may see Christ working through us? God blesses us with abundant treasure and the opportunities to give with a thankful heart. Let others see Christ working through us and ECA! We are always THANKFUL for the blessings received! Just as the faithful leper did---give thanks, praise, get up and let's all get going! What should we stop and thank Him for today?

Respectfully Submitted by Cheryl Farr