

Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, Oct 9, 2016 – Thanksgiving Sunday

Notes for the sermon on A 10% Gratitude Ratio



Ps 111 and Luke 17:11-19 Sermon Text = Luke 17:15-16

The 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.

[Hymns = 803, 807, 802 in the *Book of Praise*]

Key Ideas

1. One out of 10 – a 10% response ratio – that's not very good by anyone's standard, is it? – 10 people were healed of leprosy, a devastating, soul-consuming disease – perhaps the worst element of which was the social rejection – that curse was removed from 10 people at once – with great joy and excitement, all 10 ran off to start the lives they had never dared dream of – only one 'turned back' to say thanks – and he was a Samaritan – another dimension of rejection – Luke, as you will remember, has this fondness for and emphasis on outsiders being welcomed in – it's God's preferential option for the outsider, the rejected, the despised – they are all my beloved children and friends - and I will heal them whether they give thanks or not, whether they recognize the source of the healing power that restores their flourishing or not – I delight in gratitude, but will not hold back my loving healing for lack of it
2. But clearly the grateful Samaritan (I wonder why this parable has not gotten that title, to go along with the Good Samaritan) offers the preferred response – turning to Jesus, joyfully praising his healing power, offering his devotion and obedience, all is a spirit of deep gratitude – that's the real point of the story for this day – the response God most enjoys is gratitude – that's the response that will bring us closer to Jesus in our journey to the Commonwealth of God
3. But I think gratitude works best when it becomes a discipline – when we pay conscious attention to it on a regular basis – that's what the research suggests – article in the *Sun* on Sat – Mark Holder, ass prof of psychology at UBC – “The good news is that gratitude is linked to all sorts of positive things. So people who do feel, express or recognize gratitude have higher happiness and life satisfaction and optimism and hope, and even meaning in life.” – so, here our gift to you on this Thanksgiving Sunday – the Brentwood Thanks Jar – [outline the suggested process] - perhaps we can start working your sources of gratitude into our prayers on Sunday mornings

At this stage in our ponderings, then ...

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, let's refresh our commitment to being in the grateful 10% - we will do that, God being our helper, as we focus our attention on all the ways the Holy Trinity blesses our lives and gives us opportunities to be grateful for their amazing grace

Sermon notes of Rev Dr Brian Fraser,
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