



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

WHERE ARE THE OTHER NINE?

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going, they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

LUKE 17:11-19

Reflection

Jesus is headed for Jerusalem, the goal of his mission. It is interesting to see that he encountered ten people with the dreaded disease called leprosy as he entered into a village. We do not know where this encounter happened, nor do we know the name of the village Jesus was about to enter. These ten had been separated from their families because of their skin disease ... they also do not have a place they call home. Along comes this wandering healer they had heard about, and they decide to see what he can do for them. Jesus simply told them to show themselves to the priests – this was the custom that would allow them to enter back into society if their impediment were healed. When Jesus encountered the ten, he did not heal them "then and there," and there was no guarantee that they would be healed.

On the journey to the synagogue, they began to see their skin being restored to health and they continued their journey to show the priests. But one decided to turn back to thank Jesus for healing him. He could see that something wonderful had happened and wanted to return to Jesus to express his gratitude to the One who gave him this gift. He praised God for what Jesus did. This one was a Samaritan. He received not only physical healing but the gift of salvation. God's love in Jesus' words had made this person whole again.



Christ Heals a Leper
"Christus geneest de melaatsen, RP-P-1961-734 " by Rijksmuseum is marked with CCo 1.0.

For Pondering

- Are there times when I have been healed of physical suffering or mental anguish or sorrow from a rupture in a relationship, and I have remembered to return to the One who made me whole again to offer my gratitude? Or have I been like the “other nine” who went skipping happily on their way, oblivious of the One who healed them?
 - What can I do to make this right?
 - How can my heart be awakened to gratefulness to God, the Giver of all Gifts?
-

For Prayer

In Thanks

*Loving, caring God,
all the happiness and fulfillment in my life come only from You.
Knowing how absolute is my dependence on You,
I find my peace of mind.
Your presence suffuses my life,
caressing me with hope, joy and love.
I've tasted your love, I've known your compassion,
I've experienced Your patience, and I am filled with gratefulness.*

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