

ST JOHNS BUCKLANDS BEACH

SERMON FOR SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER 2013

PREPARED AND DELIVERED BY DICK MCDONALD

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBER

Theme: Expressing Gratitude

Focus Text: Luke 17: 11-19

Delivered as a narrative sermon, and idea inspired by the writing of Rev. Richard J. Fairchild, the Luke text and material developed by Seasons of the Spirit.

Summary of Delivery:

- Told from the viewpoint of one who was there following Jesus and who closely observed and was greatly moved by the experience.
- Travelling on a hot dust day on the boarder road between Sumaria and Galilee.
- Heard the cries of 10 lepers “unclean, unclean, unclean”.
- Observed them, initially from a distance; some had rags wrapped around their hands, others their feet bundled up in strips of old cloth.
- Fear of leprosy; slowly rots and destroys the body.
- Forever unclean, unless declared clean following a Priest’s examination seven days after a skin blemish was first identified. Leviticus 13-14.
- Outcasts for the rest of their lives – stigma! AND knowing that unless lealed (by a miracle) will continue to spread throughout the body.
- But Jesus did not seem afraid of lepers; had once touched and healed a leper (Mark 1: 40-45; Matthew 8: 1-4; Luke 5: 12-16).
- Lepers saw Jesus and called out “Jesus, Master, Have pity on us”. AND
- Jesus stopped, held out his hands and said “Go, show yourselves to the Priests”.
- The lepers must have believed because all turned and hurried down the road to the village and the Priests.
- What an incredible experience for them to realise as they walked, that they were healed!
- About 15 minutes later one returned, clearly healed!
- Singled out Jesus, ran to him, fell at his feet shouting “Alleluia, Alleluia”.
- Jesus touched him, and said “were not all ten cleansed - Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” BECAUSE
- The healed man was a Samaritan, a race that despises us and refuses to worship in the right way!
- But Jesus said “Go, your faith has made you whole”
- Whole – not just well BUT whole, something very special.
- How might we have behaved? – Would we have come back and thanked Jesus? OR – Would we rush to the Priest and then to our families? – had we ever thanked God for what we had? OR
- Were we like the one who because of his faith = remembered what God had done AND was thankful. It is God who undertakes the impossible and who succeeds.
- Moving forward in faith while looking back in gratitude. Amen.