

A Thanksgiving Question....

Roxanne and I hope you had a blessed, peaceful, and faith-filled Thanksgiving holiday. That your Thanksgiving table, be it lavish or simple, will always be a place of fellowship, laughter, and love.

Roxanne and I are reminded of how richly blessed we are to serve two vibrant communities of faith. We have come to know so many of our congregants as friends, and as fellow travelers on the journey of faith and discipleship. For that we are truly thankful.

I am reminded of the Gospel story of the ten lepers. That text offers a marvelous example of thanksgiving which raises a very intriguing question. Why did only one of the ten return to Jesus in thanksgiving? Were the remaining nine simply ungrateful despite their miraculous healing? I find that hard to believe. Perhaps, the nine only looked at their skin, once disfigured, but now cleansed and pure. The tenth leper, as well, saw the transformation of his physical appearance. Yet, he also saw the transformation that was taking place in his heart. He felt a new connection to God. A spiritual healing born of God's grace. In short, he was prepared to be thankful. God's love for the tenth leper had never changed. His scarred and withered appearance was no impediment to grace. As Jesus cleansed his skin, God spoke to his heart. All too often, we limit thankfulness to material success. In that regard, we are like the nine lepers. This year, what if we, like the tenth leper, were thankful for God's action in our lives. Action that is often revealed through another person. In this season of Thanksgiving, let us recall God's work in our hearts and in our lives as revealed through the comfort, kindness, and compassion of another. Then and only then are we prepared to be truly thankful. That is what the Good News is all about.

I pray your Thanksgiving Day was a time to remember, to celebrate, and to give thanks for God's grace.

Blessings,

Pastor Tom and Roxanne