

## Sunday, October 9, 2022 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

1 - Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.

*There was one negative in Naaman's life that outweighed all the positives – he was a leper.*

2-3 - Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

*When the young girl from Israel was taken captive by the Arameans, I am sure she had no idea what part she would play in the plan of God.*

*Have you ever looked back on your life in amazement over the way in which you were able to play a part in the plan of God in a way that you never would have expected or anticipated?*

*Esther 4: 13-14 – "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."*

9-12 - So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage.

*When have you wanted to do things your own way – rather than God's way?*

*What was the end result?*

*"You can do your own thing, but if you want to be healed, you've got to do what he said."*

13-14 - His servants approached and said, "If the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

*Who gives you wise advice? Do you always listen?*

*When might you have missed out on God's blessings if you had not been willing to humble yourself and do what He said?*

### Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

2 – What you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.

5 – No athlete is crowned without competing according to the rules.

11-13 – Part of a well-known poem?

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us;

if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

14 - Avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening.

16-17 - Avoid profane chatter. It spreads like gangrene.

21 - If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use.

23 - Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; they breed quarrels.

24 - The Lord's servant must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people.

Rick Warren and EGR's - Extra Grace Required people

### **Gospel: Luke 17:11-19**

11-14 - On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

14 - As they went, they were made clean.

15-16 - Then 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.

17-19 - Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

### **Whatever happened to the other nine?**

#### **Here are nine reasons why the other nine might not have returned to say thanks?**

First leper - He did not understand what had just happened to him and he was afraid.

Second leper - He was offended because it was so easy. Jesus did not require anything of him.

Third leper - He did not want to be healed. His identity was all wrapped up in his being a leper.

Fourth leper - He forgot. In his joyful delirium he simply forgot to return to give thanks.

Fifth leper - He never learned how to say "Thank you." The words "Thank you" embarrassed him.

Sixth leper - She was too busy, hurrying back home to take care of her family.

Seventh leper - He did not believe that Jesus had anything to do with the healing.

Eighth leper - He had been angry all of his life over the bum deal that he had been given by life.

Ninth leper - He had so much good work to do. He had so many important tasks to perform and so many mission priorities to pursue.

### **What percentage of the time do you say "Thanks"?**

The little girl who tried to count all the stars - "I never knew there were so many."

"Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."