

I'd like you to remember what you did on Thursday evenings at 8pm during the Covid19 lockdowns. I wonder if you joined others in your community to stand on your doorstep clapping, banging pots or otherwise make noise to say thank you to our hard working NHS staff and key workers who put themselves at risk in order to keep us just a little bit safer during that awful time? I wonder if you remember how powerful it felt, to hear the echoing sounds through the neighbourhood of other people saying thank you as well? It was so powerful to stand together in solidarity and all say thank you together. But how often do we forget to thank others when they are kind to us? It's easy to assume they know we're grateful and forgot to say it.

Now, you would be forgiven for not knowing what leprosy was like because, thankfully, it's really not very common anymore. But this was a horrible contagious disease that ate away at people's skin and they would even lose limbs because of it. If you got leprosy, you had to leave your community and go live in special leper colonies, together with others who had the same disease and you could never have contact with healthy people again, including your friends and family. Lepers suffered physically, but they also suffered socially because they were totally cut off from community. It was like being in lockdown and isolation on a permanent basis – and we now know the impact even a couple of years of lockdowns had on our mental health. Imagine being in one the rest of your life?!

But along comes Jesus and he heals these ten sick men. Nine of those men who Jesus healed were so happy to be healed that you could easily assume they believed Jesus knew they were grateful and they didn't need to say so. They were following his directions to go present themselves to the priest. But one man realised he needed to stop, turn back and actually say thank you. Jesus' response demonstrated that he had done the right thing.

So I wonder if there's anyone you need to say thank you to today? Maybe not by banging pots and pans but just offering a simple word of thanks. Let's not overlook the power of a simple thank you and make sure we say it!



**Prayer:**

*Loving God, please help us remember to be thankful people. To say thank you to others and to you – always. Amen.*



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

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, 'Jesus, Master, have pity on us!'

When he saw them, he said, 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him – and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well.'