



SANCTUARY REFLECTION GUIDE

November 24, 2024

Title: Turn Around

Preacher: Rev. Paul Rasmussen

Scriptures: Luke 17:11-19, Matthew 6:1-4

Fifty yards. This is the distance that lepers had to maintain between themselves and everyone else—including spouses, family, and friends. This week, we'll explore the powerful story of Jesus healing 10 lepers. He changes their whole lives, freeing them from both their physical pain and the emotional pain of their forced isolation. Yet, only one returns to thank him.

It's a familiar story, but have you ever considered Jesus' perspective? What does it feel like for him when their gratitude goes unspoken? How do we handle the sting of feeling unappreciated, especially when we are tempted to tie our sense of worth to others' recognition? In this sermon, we reflect on the significance of gratitude and the God who sees us even when no one else does.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. What is a small way someone showed up for you or helped you recently that you really appreciated?
3. Re-read Luke 17:11-19 together. How can we relate to the other nine lepers in the story? How can we relate to Jesus?
4. What stands out to you about the one leper who returned? How can we become more like him?

5. God is “El Roi,” the God who sees you. What does this teach you about His character and how He relates to us?
6. How can we resist tying our sense of value to others’ recognition or appreciation?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

This week, we invite you to practice gratitude and seeing others the way God sees us.

Think of a person you know—a family member, friend, coworker, or someone in your community—whose quiet acts of love and service for others might go unnoticed or underappreciated. What is the impact that they have made?

Then, **express your gratitude to them this week** by writing a heartfelt note, sending a thoughtful text, calling them on the phone, or telling them in person. Be clear and specific about why you are thankful for them!