



First Press

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June 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

The Unthankful Nine or the Grateful One

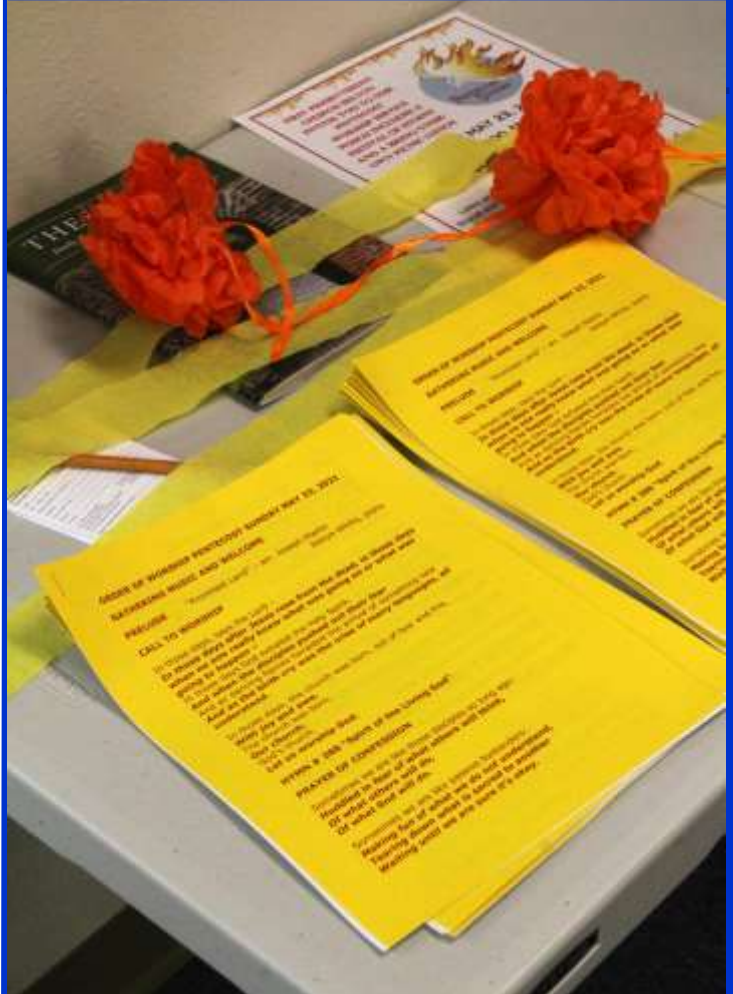
"Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?'" (Luke 17:17-18)

The thankful/not thankful story takes place in a racially diverse region between Galilee and Samaria:



Greek wording of the story called the people ALLOGENES, "foreigners" from the root words meaning "other" and "to bear or birth". Jews and Samaritans were mixed in this place that seems to have been a nether land. A common affliction drew them together-leprosy. People of the time were not ignorant of the cause of illnesses that were highly infectious,

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A Stated Meeting of the Session was held on May 24, 2021. Highlights include:

Clerk of Session--Penny stated that the Treasurer's report continues to be positive for year-to date. Also, the Auditor's report from Bob Livingston has been received and accepted. **[Update]** Penny attended a Southern Region gathering of Grace Presbytery on June 3rd at First Presbyterian Church in Waco. She met and heard from the new Interim General Presbyter Steve Shive. There was a discussion of the needs of migrants in our area and how we can minister to them. Topics also included assisting declining churches and finding ways to utilize elders. One suggestion made was bringing elders together for the exchange of ideas and for fellowship- building cohorts. A mid-summer meeting at Grace Presbyterian Church in Temple on July 22nd is planned to begin developing this elder fellowship concept.

Worship & Welcome--Kay reported that our Pentecost Service was great and that everyone enjoyed the music, the noise makers, the children's participation and the indoor picnic. The decorations were colorful and festive and the entertainment by Brandi and Bryce Clarke, Shorty Grisham, and Jessye Whitis was outstanding. A little rain did not stop our celebration. Some special things are being planned for Father's Day and a patriotic themed service and picnic are also being planned for July 4th.

Buildings & Grounds--Lynda reported that we continue to have issues with some of the fluorescent lights working intermittently. She is working to have an electrician come in to evaluate the issues and provide an estimate for correction. At the present time she believes that the issue is really the aging ballasts.

Education of Disciples--Erin reported that she will begin meeting on Tuesdays with the Clarke children since the performance schedules of their parents often interferes with them attending Sunday School during regular hours. They will study the Armor of God. A decision was made to include a children's sermon in the worship service each Communion Sunday. There was also a discussion about celebrating two of our young adults who will be attending college away from our community this Fall. Tyler VanBeber will attend the TAMU Academy of Engineering at Blinn College in Brenham and Alyssa Auten will attend Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches to study Physics with minors in Astronomy and Mathematics.

Mission and Community Care—Our church will provide dinner for the Body of Christ Community Medical and Dental Clinic volunteers on Thursday, July 29th. Please let Robin or Patricia know if you would like to prepare something for this meal.



TYLER VANBEBER

June 12, 2021
Temple High School

GRAD



class of
2021



**Saturday
June 12th
Open House
Reception for
Tyler VanBeber
3 - 5 pm ✦ Come
Congratulate
Our High School
Graduate**

Pastor's Desk (cont.)

though lacking in knowledge of germs and means of transmission. The incurable (at the time) disease brought this diverse group together while forcing isolation from the general population. Deep cultural, religious and historic divisions separated "healthy" Jews and Samaritans. Jesus broke through all human barriers to bring healing to the ten lepers. Jews and Samaritans did not touch or converse. Lepers and nonaffected persons did not touch or converse. Jesus did both. He placed healing hands on the suffering and talked with caring words of hope to all ten. Nine left without responding. The tenth expressed deep gratitude. Of the ten this person was a "foreigner", the "other-born."

Jesus leaves his caring touch of healing on us all wherever we have been born or reside. He sees us through the eyes of God who loves all the children of His Creation. Jesus deals with us equally without making distinctions of race, nationality, gender, age, or physical, emotional or intellectual ability. My question from this story is- how thankful are we? Personally, in a crisis situation I am constant in prayer for church members and friends, myself or family members or those I do not know but for whom I have received prayer requests.

Generally, as the situation is resolved, I move on to the next agenda item. Therefore, I do not find it easy to judge harshly the nine "ingrates" realizing the ease with which I/we move on without thanking God for the prayer answers. So today, right now, be the thankful one that returned to talk with Jesus to give thanks. Here are a few examples of simple prayers to get you started...

Lord, I present myself before You, with a heart full of thanks. I want to thank You for things seen and unseen which You have done in my life. Accept my thanks.

Lord, my words cannot say enough. Thank You for all You have been

doing in my life, the mighty work that You used in transforming my life and restoring my mind. To You oh Lord will I give lasting thanks.

Lord, You have done so many marvelous things in my life and even in the lives of my loved ones which I just can't comprehend. At times, life never treats me well but still, I have no choice but to say thank You for the things You have done. Thank You, Jesus.

*With thanks for the internet site: [The Joyful Pastor](#) for the map and textual notes on the Greek.



FINANCIAL DATA JAN 1 - May 30 2021

Profit & Loss

Total Income	\$28,815.71
Total Expense	\$22,588.76
Net Income	\$ 6,226.95



