

“LIVING THANK YOU NOTES”

LUKE 17:11-19

NOVEMBER 20, 2022

Introduction

2 Corinthians 3:1-5 – *Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

⁴Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.

Biblical Stewardship and First Fruits living is wrapped up in two words:

_____.

Today, as we focus on First Fruits Giving, let us remember that “the best kind of giving is _____.”

Luke 17:11-19 – *On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” ¹⁴When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”*

First Fruits living through the eyes of a Leper:

1. It begins with _____ who God is and who we are.
2. It _____ what He has done in our life.
3. It compels us to pause and _____ to Him to say “thank you.”

Some thoughts to meditate upon and pray over as we enter the week ahead:

“It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

“Would you know him who is the greatest saint? It is not he or she who prays the most or fasts the most. It is not he who gives Alms, but it is he or she who is always thankful to God, who receives everything as an instance of God’s goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it.” (William Law)

“Many are not significant givers because they are not significant receivers.”

“Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others.” (Cicero)

“There are three essential prayers – Help! Thanks! Wow!” (Anne Lamott)