

October 2018



GENERATIONS OF  
**GENEROSITY**

## Living in Gratitude

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19)

*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, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus'[c] feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 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."*

Dear St. David's Family,

On our Holy Land pilgrimage, Kirk and I stood in the cave that is believed to be where the ten lepers were kept as to not make anyone else unclean by being them. It was small with a few nooks and crannies and a very small hole through which light came in and sounds from the world above could be heard. The thought of ten sick men, covered in sores, confined to this small, dark space for an unknown timeframe was overwhelming. The thought that kept running through my head was, "How could only one of them return to give thanks to Jesus? How could they be so distracted and self-absorbed?" And the one man that did return was a foreigner thought to not know or believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Each year in the fall, we are invited to pray and discern what God is calling us to commit to give to the church of our time, our God-given gifts, and our money. For Kirk and me it is more about remembering why we give and why we make the decision to tithe.

- ◇ We give out of thanksgiving for God at work in our lives.
- ◇ We give in response to the abundant generosity of God that is poured out endlessly in our lives through the relationships we have with family, friends, members of our faith community, and in the world.
- ◇ We give because it brings us joy to participate in the life of St. David's and to be part of the mission and ministry of our church. It is an exciting and life-giving community.

We strived towards a tithe years ago and tithe today for several reasons.

- ◇ Tithing or giving 10% of our very best and first fruits is what God asks of us throughout the Bible.
- ◇ Money and how we spend our money can easily distract us from our relationship with God or tempt us to become self-absorbed with no awareness of our need for God. We are tempted by what the world says we "want or need" to make us happy. Happiness is temporary, an in-the-moment emotion, whereas the joy that comes when you give, sustains us through the good and the rough times. For us, ten percent keeps our eyes and hearts aware of God at work in the world

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because we feel it; it is sacrificial.

Above our tithe to our church, we give to ministries that we have been blessed by and are making a difference in the lives of others, such as Growing the Tradition, Camp Capers, Duncan Park, Mustang Island, Seminary of the Southwest, and others. Watching God at work and participating in that work through giving of our time and money is joy-filled and life-giving, and it helps keep our eyes and hearts on following Jesus.



I invite you to say your prayers about how God is calling you to give of your time and your money to the mission and ministry of your church in 2018. We will celebrate Commitment Sunday on November 4th. Please complete and return the enclosed pledge card on or before that day. We are thankful for our life together doing the work of the kingdom now and in the years to come. If you have questions or want to visit, please do not hesitate to call me, 210-854-4811.

Peace,

Lisa+

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