

**Good Call!**  
**Called to the Top 10%**  
**October 9, 2022**

**Overarching Theme:** 2022 – The Year of the Lord’s Favor (Luke 4:19)

**Instructions:**

When using this material as teacher, feel free to pick and choose the point you want to emphasize in the lesson. The format of the curriculum is designed to have an abundance of information in which to refer as desired.

**Core Point:**

As the world awakens from 2 years of pandemic stupor, the words of Jesus proclaiming “*the year of the Lord’s favor*” is a message whose time has come. This passage from Luke 4 harkens back to the ‘year of jubilee’ of Leviticus 25 and Isaiah 61, a year of a fresh start, a clean slate and reset for everyone who can envision new possibilities with God this year and always.

**Reflect on this Scripture:**

**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’ 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.”*

**Commentary:**

The act of seeing plays a vital role in this story. First Jesus sees the lepers. Then, the one leper sees that he has been healed. The leper’s seeing involved recognition of God’s deliverance and grace. Ten were healed, but only one recognized the healing for what it was. Is healing simply the natural process of nature or a sign of God’s love? In retrospect, are the

opportunities and experiences that prepare one for greater challenges simply chance or evidence of God's providence? Who can fathom the ways in which God works in human experience?

The second question goes to the heart of the story. What do you *do* when you see? Jesus saw need and acted to meet it. When the leper saw healing, he did not just celebrate his good fortune; he returned to praise God and fell on his face before Jesus. Gratitude may be the purest measure of one's character and spiritual condition. The absence of the ability to be grateful reveals self-centeredness or the attitude that I deserve more than I ever get, so I do not need to be grateful.

Did it take a Samaritan - an outcast - to recognize grace for what it was? The grateful person reveals a humility of spirit and a sensitivity to love expressed by others. The grateful person, therefore, regards others' acts of kindness and experiences of God's grace with profound gratitude. Life itself is a gift. Health is a precious gift - the friendship of others and the love of family and special friends are an overwhelming grace to be treasured and guarded with gratitude. What do you see? And what do you do?

- Adapted from the New Interpreter's Bible Commentary, Vol IX, p. 327

### **Questions to Ponder for Accountability in the Group:**

1. Leprosy is a contagious skin disease that can lead to bodily deterioration and death. As a result, 1<sup>st</sup> century lepers were completely ostracized and forced to live in isolation. In this passage, 10 lepers cried out for mercy, and Jesus healed all ten. Why do you think only one in ten came back to give thanks to Jesus? Does this say anything about human nature?
2. Do you think that it was significant that the one who came back to Jesus was also a Samaritan, one who was a religious outsider as well?
3. What is more common in our world today, an entitlement mentality or the practice of gratitude? Put another way, are we more likely to be grumblers or grateful? Why?
4. Do you know anyone whose life is characterized by gratitude? What is different about them that you could emulate?
5. How can you grow your gratitude muscles this week and move toward the top 10% in terms of thankfulness?

### **Activity for the Life of a Disciple:**

1. Remember to find encouragement for the day by reading the daily devotional from FUMCC.
2. Start a gratitude list this week. Pick a time each day to reflect on 3 different blessings that God has given you.
3. Ponder and pray on this scripture this week: Luke 17:17-19 *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."*