



Ask, Father James:

The Thankful Samaritan

On this Thanksgiving Weekend, we are called to emulate the thankful Samaritan. In this Sunday's Gospel reading, (Luke 17:11-19), The Samaritan saw what Jesus had done for him, ...

1. came back,
2. praising God in a loud voice
3. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and
4. thanked him

The word "thanked" here and in verse 16 is Greek *eucharisteō*. This is to show that one is under obligation, to be thankful. During our Eucharistic celebrations, we do all the above thankful gestures of the Samaritan's actions.

Jesus receives his thanks graciously. Gratitude is an important component in our salvation. Our gratitude to the Lord is expected. This is what the Mass helps us to do. This is what the Thanksgiving weekend is all about. Arise and give thanks for the Lord has done marvels for you. When we give thanks to God, we too would hear Jesus' departing blessing to the thankful Samaritan: 'Rise and go; your faith has saved you.'" (Luke 17:19).

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