

Children's Puppet Sermon
October 10, 2010
Luke 17: 11-19

Just Say Thank You

By: Chris Lubold

(occurring below curtain)

Unknown puppet: ... What do you mean, you lost your voice. Someone has to tell the children to come forward.

... I am NOT going up there. No. No. No.

... That is not my job. I'm stage crew.

... Are you kidding me? There are too many people. It's too scary.

... I don't care. I'm telling you.

(slowly back upward while still looking down and back)

... I won't do it. There are just too many...

(suddenly turns forward and jaw drops – waits and says...)

...people.

... Um... Uh... Hi...You can come up now. Anyone who isn't here yet please raise you hand.

(looks down behind screen and whispers)

...Hey. It's not so bad. Mostly, only the small ones are coming up.

(turns back forward)

... Everyone come on. Come forward and have a seat. Today's Puppet Sermon is from Luke Chapter 17 and is called "Just Say Thank You"

(whispers behind curtain)

... Is everyone ready?

(looks back out)

OK... Enjoy the show.

(from below and unseen, whispering, while Jeremy is switched in)

... I thought you say everyone was ready... Can't you find him? Well, what should we do now? Oh... Here we go.

Jeremy is upset and moping about mumbling

Jeremy: I can't believe I have to do all this work. That's not even fair. None of my friends parents make them write dumb old thank you cards.

Mr. Beasley: Jeremy? What are you mumbling about? Is something wrong?

Jeremy: Mom and Dad are making me write thank you cards for everyone who came to my birthday party yesterday. Would you believe I even have to write about the present they brought me! I can't even just write thank you. I have to write whole sentences. Can you believe that? Whole sentences!

Mrs. Beasley: My goodness. Whole sentences!

Jeremy: I know. It's awful.

Mrs. Beasley: On the other hand Jeremy, aren't you thankful for everyone for coming.

Jeremy: Well yea...but...writing whole sentences is going to take forever. I can't go anywhere until I finish.

Mrs. Beasley: Jeremy, I don't suppose you remember the Gospel lesson from this morning do you?

Jeremy: Well, sure. It was about 10 leopards but I don't see what a bunch of spotted cats has to do with writing thank you cards.

Mrs. Beasley: That's what I thought. Jeremy. The story was about 10 lepers, not 10 leopards. A leper is a person with a skin disease called leprosy. Leprosy was rather common in Jesus' time and lepers were forced to live apart from other people. Leprosy causes ugly sores all over a person's body.

Jeremy: Oh...That does kind of make more sense.
But what does that have to do with writing thank you cards?

Mrs. Beasley: In the story, Jesus heals 10 lepers and after healing them, only one comes back to say thank you.

Jeremy: I think I see where this is going.

Mrs. Beasley: You do, do you? You see, God gives us amazing gifts. Everything you have is a gift. Our homes, the food we eat, our families and friends and even our very lives are gifts from God. In the Gospel story, Jesus reminds us to be thankful for our gifts. Jesus was not very happy with the 9 men who forgot to thank God for being healed.

Jeremy: So I guess that all of my friends are gifts from God and I should thank them for being my friends and coming to my party...Right?

Mrs. Beasley: Well, Don't you think so?

Jeremy: I guess so... You know? By thanking them, I guess it is sort of like I'm thanking God also.

Mrs. Beasley: Well, I suppose it is. You know Jeremy. You are very blessed. You have wonderful parents, good friends and a happy home. You have a lot to be thankful for.

Jeremy: I guess... I mean. (pause) When you put it that way, it's not **SO** bad to write a few thank you cards...
Mrs. Beasley?

Mrs. Beasley: Yes, Jeremy?

Jeremy: Do you think I can write a thank you note to God and he will know what it says?

Mrs. Beasley: I don't see why not. What do you want to say?

Jeremy: I want to thank God for you!

(puppets drop away – switch to animal then reappear)

New puppet: This message was brought to you by the letter L and the number 10... and GOD... Thank you. THE END.