Sermon:
**He threw himself to the ground at Jesus’ feet and thanked him**. **The man was a Samaritan.** (Luke 17.16)

Aesop’s story of Androcles and the Lion and Luke 17.11-19. What are the similarities in the message?

Help is asked for, Gratitude, Unexpected Endings

Saying thanks should come naturally & it does to some; but not for others, who have to work at it.

Luke story only one came back TEXT. It is not that the others were not grateful…

When did you last say thank you? And to whom?

We often clap the Choir/Music Team, we may say thank you when receiving bread/wine. Sometimes that seems wrong – we should be thanking God for the gift of music, and for Jesus (as bread and wine). But is not our thanks for God expressed in our thanks to others?

It is good for the person expressing the thanks, it is good for the person receiving the thanks.

Just think how Jesus might have felt when TEXTa.

Jesus’ comment about the ‘foreigner’ sounds rude (v 18), but note only the Samaritan came back. They were considered as half-Jews; with their own central place of worship & version of Bible.

See The Good Samaritan (Luke 10) and The Woman at the Well (John 4).

See also some good Romans: Centurion with sick daughter (Luke 7), Cornelius (Acts 10).

Was Jesus more surprised about the thankful Samaritan, or the unthankful 9?

Was Jesus more surprised by the faith of the Centurion, or the lack of faith of Jews in Luke 7?

There are many divisions in today’s world – not just the obvious ones of race, wealth, religion, politics or culture but also division over climate change, between active and passive protest, between ‘just’ talking and ‘rash’ action.

It is one thing to disagree, it is quite another to treat ‘enemies’ as ‘dirt’.

Gratitude is still appropriate even to our ‘enemies’ – perhaps more so!

In this way we demonstrate the Gospel.