



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 12, 2025

2 Kings 5:14-17 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Luke 17:11-19

The Blessing by Anthony DeMello

Narrator: There was a saint who lived a life of humble charity and gratitude.

God decided one day that this saint should receive a special blessing for his faithfulness and so dispatched an angel to visit the saint.

The angel appeared before him, bending low and said,

Angel: I have been sent to you by God. Ask for anything and it will be given to you.

Narrator: The saint hesitated, wondering what in the world he could ask for.

Angel: Would you want the gift of healing?

Saint: No. I'd rather that God did the healing and be praised for it.

Angel: Would you like others to imitate your holiness and thus bless God and come closer to God?

Saint: That would be terrible. That would make me the center of attention rather than God.

Angel: Might God make you a great preacher and reconciler, bringing sinners and lost souls back to the fold?

Saint: Please, no. I've always believed that was the work of Jesus the Shepherd and that you angels rejoiced over each one who came home.

Angel (frustrated): So how might God bless you? What would you want? God sent me to you! Please ask for something. This blessing is God's will.

Saint (The saint thought quietly for some time): All right, if I must have some blessing, then please give me this: that all the good I do, I will do without realizing it, and no one will know that it was my doing. And so, they will bless God for God's goodness.

Narrator: The angel agreed to such a blessing. All the kindnesses and generosity the saint would do would be a blessing to others, but it would always be behind him. He would never know and others would never suspect and they would bless God for his goodness. And so, it has been.

Narrator: Isn't gratitude at the heart of the faith we profess? Gratitude is a practice — a way of life — that is grounded in the conviction that God has breathed his life into us for no other reason than love for us, and that the only fitting response we can make to such unmerited love is to stand humbly before God in quiet, humble gratitude. It's that perspective of thankfulness exhibited by the Samaritan leper to Jesus that is at the heart of the human spirit.

With that in mind, may we be like the saint and do good, and may it be behind us.

(Source: Jay Cormier in Connections, October 2025 issue)

Prayer: Bringing Home the Word