Did you have a favorite Christmas gift this year? Did you have a present you still enjoy...but one you didn’t ever say “thank you” for? Sometimes we get so excited about our presents that we forget to say “thank you”! We might go off playing with a toy, but forget to say “thanks.”

Today, we hear about the story of the ten men who had an awful disease. They knew they would be stuck with this disease for the rest of their lives! They knew they would have to live in a special place just for sick people. They knew they could talk only to other sick people, for the rest of their lives.

But our Lord, Jesus Christ came to heal people! He came to help people and to save them. And that day, He came to heal those ten sick men. He did heal them, and now they could go live normal lives again. Everything was different now. They received the best gift ever, but sadly, only one man came back to thank Jesus. Christ told him, “Were not ten healed? Where are the nine?”

Do you ever wonder where those other nine men went? Well, they probably went off to enjoy their lives! They probably were so excited with their new gift that they forgot to thank the Giver! Today, can you think of some things you enjoy from God? Can you remember to thank God for them?
Have you ever tried to show off about something? Maybe you wanted to show others that you were really good at something, or that you could do something they couldn’t do.

This week, we celebrate the nameday of a saint who taught others not to be show-offs. Saint Euthymios was a humble monk, but he grew to be in charge of lots of other monks. He started lots of monasteries in Palestine, so that men there could try to grow closer to our Lord. They could focus their whole lives on God. Saint Euthymios was a holy man, but he tried hard not to show off. God gave this saint lots of gifts, but Euthymios didn’t want other people to know how close he was to God! He just didn’t want to show off.

Sometimes we might think that monks and nuns are so holy that they don’t ever do anything wrong! That’s not true, of course. They have struggles too, just like we do...but just in different ways. Once, some young monks wanted to show off how much they could fast. They wanted to show how little they could eat. But Saint Euthymios (who was their leader), told them to come to the table with the other monks. He told them it was more important to have love for each other. He wanted them to learn to be humble... and not to show off.

See how we can learn so much from the saints?

We celebrate St. Euthymios Friday, Jan. 20th (OC: Feb. 2nd).