

Trinity News

October 10, 2010

Pentecost 20 The Healing of the Ten Lepers Luke 17:11-19.

This healing is the centrepiece in Luke's portrait of Jesus as healer. Ten are healed and only one turns back to render thanks to Jesus, and he is a Samaritan. Perhaps this story was told because of the one leper who came back to say thanks.

The irony is delicious and the scope of Jesus' ministry is enlarged. Jesus is travelling along the border between Samaria and Galilee, and he is also 'treading' on the 'border' of what can be said and what cannot be said in Israel.

Talking about Samaritans in a favourable manner was a dangerous exercise in conversation! The mention of the Samaritan leper who turns back to render thanks is reminiscent of the Samaritan in the parable of the generous-hearted Samaritan. It is a boundaries statement, setting new dimensions for those who are surprise inclusions in the vanguard of the reign of God. No one is ever partially within the Reign of God. Either one is in the universal kingdom or one is out.

Lepers had only lepers for company. Cut off from family and friends they lived outside the communities that had nurtured them. They were social outcasts. They were condemned to "keeping their distance" (17: 12). They had to shout across a space that must have seemed like a yawning canyon at their feet. Their 'crime' was to be afflicted with a crippling disease. But though Christ restored them to community only one returned to thank him. Indeed, their restoration to community is itself part of the healing. They are told to go and present themselves to the priests. This presumes that they would be healed by the time that they presented themselves to the priests. They were apparently outside the ministrations of the priests of Israel unless they came for certification that they had been healed.

Being solitary does not mean that we are necessarily 'lonely'. But loneliness itself is always accompanied by isolation. "Give thanks with a grateful heart" says one of our sacred songs, and that is exemplified in the thanks shown by the Samaritan. He was doubly outcast as a foreigner and a leper. I don't like the term "foreigner" because I have been called that in other countries. "We all belong to the one race", the human race, as my doctor Hiwa Sabir, a peace-loving Muslim, reminded me one day. The Samaritan remembered when to thank, who to thank and how to thank. He would never forget that day, because acts of thanksgiving are tied to remembrance. Let us apply this to something that we do time after time for close people. Have you ever tried to buy a gift for someone and you can't find the right one? For someone who has nothing, even a small gift is a tiny miracle. It is like trying to buy a suitable card for an anniversary, a wedding, a birthday or even a sympathy card. The design is not really important, though it does play some part in our choice. The important thing is the words and how they apply to the particular person to whom we are sending a card. It can take hours to find the right card. But if we are wise in our choice, then we will receive a response that is full of gratitude. This applies to any card that we might buy for anyone, whatever their standing in life. In every case, the words are so important. Children like colourful cards, and some adults like wacky ones!

The Psalmist asks the question about what we can render to God for all of his benefits towards us (Psalm 116:12). The primary benefit that we have received from God is life itself. No one on earth will ever live our unique life. No one can ever make our contribution. No one can dream our dreams. We are all walking and talking miracles. Our hold on life is as tenuous as a snowball rolling towards a fire, but we are incredibly tenacious in avoiding an ever-present reality posed by our own fragile humanity. So we give thanks for what we have and we seek where possible to change structures that crush and demoralise people. We have all had to work hard for anything that we have and this only makes us more thankful.

Bishop Arthur Jones

Next Week's Readings:

Genesis 32:3-8,22-30; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8a

TO PLAN:

October 10, TODAY:

- Sunday School, 9:15
- Confirmation Class, 9:30-10:30, Parish Office.

Oct. 12, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Bible Study, #3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, 7:15pm.

October 14, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

The Women of the Church in collaboration with the ECW, EDCP is embarking on a fund raising project in November 20 to 21 , 2010 in our parish. Proceeds of this project will go to the Church's Scholarship and Health program in the aided parishes of Payong and Taguig.

In this regard we are inviting everyone to please join us in the "Parish Christmas BAZAAR". To all interested Vendors and shoppers please coordinate with Ms Cecille Katigbak and Maricel Bangilan at CHT's office.

-ECW, CHT

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Benjie Gonzales, Ron Jacob, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Ema Duhaylongsod, Loy Solasco, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Susan Dalmas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Johnny Manning Jr, Sunny Cabanang, Valerie Jones, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby, Fr. Barry Cumberland, Divinagracia Benitez, Cery Abad.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P66,150.00	P2,912,208.48	P3,000,000.00	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P13,668.00	P672,523.73	P723,076.92	P940,000.00

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com