



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 17: 11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Some things to think about...

Your teacher will explain to you the importance of the different characters in the story: the lepers, Priests, Samaritan. At what time did the lepers realise they had been healed? Why do you think they were healed? Why do you think 9 of them did not come back to thank Jesus?

The Samaritan was considered an outcast by the Jews and hated by them, yet he came back to thank Jesus – a Jew. Why do you think Jesus chose the Samaritan, a person hated by the Jews, to be the hero of His story? What lessons does this story have for us?

Activity

Using the "[Alphabet Blessings](#)" activity from the Mini Vinnies website (in "Key Resources"), write down what you are grateful for e.g. A = animals – my pets.

Materials needed for the activity:

1 copy of "Alphabet Blessings" worksheet per student.

Teacher's Notes

This week's Gospel reading is sometimes known as the "Thankful Leper" in which only one of the ten lepers who were healed came back to thank Jesus.

- The lepers: Leprosy in Biblical times was a terrible thing. Once a person caught it, it was considered incurable and those diagnosed with leprosy were cast out from society. The loathing directed at lepers was not merely fear of the disease. Leprosy made a person ritually unclean.
- Priests: The significance of Jesus' instruction to go to the priests is that only priests, according to Jewish law, can declare a person healed of leprosy, clean and fit to re-enter society.
- Samaritan: The surprise in this healing is that the only thankful leper is a Samaritan, a non-Jew. In Jesus' time, the Samaritan was an outsider, who was hated by the Jews, and yet he is chosen by Jesus as the 'hero' in this parable.

Ask the children if they know another time a Samaritan is mentioned in the Bible (the Parable of the Good Samaritan.) Explain that the Good Samaritan story helped the listeners challenge their judgement of Samaritans and, as St Vincent de Paul said, judge all persons "In the most favourable light".

Some lessons to be learned from this parable:

- The healing took place after they obeyed Jesus, who said "Go, show yourselves to the priests". They believed Jesus, had faith, and received their healing as a result.
- Faith is exhibited in what we actually do. All ten lepers realise they are healed, but only one comes all the way back to Jesus, praising God for his mercy in healing him. A clear lesson is that Jesus values gratitude. To be filled with thanksgiving is to recognise and give praise to God for the many gifts that fill our lives.