

**THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

“And one of them (one of the lepers) realizing that he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice. He was a Samaritan.”

Luke 17: 14

We are sometimes funny people, in the sense of quirky or perhaps even odd. The gospel story for this Sunday is about ten outcasts, lepers, who have been isolated and quarantined from their families, loved ones and communities. They are cast out of the normal interactions of family life and social living. The fear is that their disease is contagious. If it is contagious others could catch it and then many would be infected. It is better that one infected person be isolated and removed from contact with everyone else in order to save the larger community. The one has to be sacrificed on behalf of, or for the many.

That almost sounds like a philosophical principle or a moral principle. But it isn't. It is just practical wisdom that wants to make sure that the disease of one does not contaminate everyone else. It is better to cast this one out from our midst. Jesus is not afraid of the disease or of the person with the disease, Jesus is not afraid to touch the one who is suspected of being contagious. There is no fear in the Lord. He is surely not afraid of our sin or our selfishness. He is also not afraid of our sickness. Jesus is actually able to heal anyone and everyone who truly wants to be healed.

Jesus heals all ten who are so diseased but only one comes back. I am guessing that the other nine were just so overjoyed that they wanted to get right home to their families. That makes sense to me. BUT... they were lepers and now they are not. How did that happen? Jesus healed them. Then why not return to him to say thanks like the other fellow did? That is why I say we are funny leaning to odd. What should be right there before our eyes, a no-brainer, as they say, is often overlooked. How much has the Lord done for you? How many times has he forgiven you? How many second chances has he given you? How many times have you stopped what you were doing and just gone to him and said thanks? If you have done that. Great. If not, what are you waiting for? That is the question of the week.