

Trinity 19, Proper 23

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c. Healing, leprosy

2 Timothy 2:8-15. avoid wrangling over words. Jesus entered into all human experience. As do we. Since he survived, so do we. To be human is to be approved by him. No need to be ashamed of humanity, demonstrating truth through our humanity.

Luke 17:11-19. 10 lepers, go and see the priest. As they went, healed. Only one thanked.

- Skin disease, not leprosy, scaly, scabby. ?psoriasis, dermatitis.
- Healing
- Cleansed as they began to obey Jesus (aorist tense), and Naaman also.
- JFDI – cleansing as they began to do it. As Jesus' brother James says, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17).
- Epistle: What you believe matters less than what you do. 'warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words.'
- Healing, my job, your job. Can require surgery.

Healing wholeness

- Salve, salvation, wellness
- Not necessarily cure
- peace taking charge of yourself, responsibility for yourself, not being dependent on others
- Peace: can't have without battle
- Lord God of hosts
- borders, peace within
- accepting yourself. Just as I am.

Nouwen Wounded healer the first and most basic task of the Christian leader of the future will be to lead his people out of the land of condition into the land of hope. Therefore, he must first have the courage to be an explorer of the new territory in himself and to articulate his discoveries as a service to in the inward generation.

Nouwen minister as contemplative man, guided by vision of what he has seen beyond the trivial concerns of a possessive world. Not subject to whims. Constantly invites his fellow man to ask real, often painful and upsetting questions, to look behind the surface of smooth behaviour, and to take away all the obstacles that prevent him from getting to the heart of the matter. The contemplative critic takes away the illusory mask of the manipulative world and has the courage to show what the true situation is, he knows that he is considered my many as a fool, a madman, a danger to society and a threat to mankind. But he is not afraid to die, since his vision makes him transcend the difference between life and death and makes him free to do what has to be done here and now, notwithstanding the risks involved.

And just as I am I come to the eucharist:

- that we may live in him and he in us. This is itself a healing ministry, the Eucharist the original Christian healing ministry
- Why special healing services when Eucharist is? Good question.

Finally, lest we forget Christ, let's remember that he does not forget us.

- Go back to the Gospel again: 9 walked away and did not say thank you.
- They had forgotten Christ. But he had not forgotten them, and he does not forget us.

This is truly a message of hope.

In the name of God and trusting in his might alone, receive Christ's healing touch to make you whole.