

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of March 22, 2020

Crossing the Border- Luke 17:11-19

Pastor Temple combined online service 10:30am

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on *Not Fear But Power 2 Timothy 1:6-12*?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Questions: How has it been going this week with “social distancing” because of the virus? To what extent is not being able to be close to people bothering you?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Luke 17:11-19. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Given the location mentioned in verse 11, what could have been the backgrounds of the 10 men with leprosy in this encounter? See the Christ Church passport booklet for the Road to Jerusalem series week four.
- What were the social obstacles between these two regions? Why might these 10 men have chosen to be together?
- What kind of “social distancing” was required for lepers in ancient Israel? (Leviticus 13:45-46)
- How does this add to the difficulties of the illness?

- The group cried out to Jesus for mercy and Jesus responds in verses 13-14. Why do you think Jesus provided healing for them in this way? How might they have felt about doing what Jesus was asking of them?
- After going to the priests, all ten are healed but only one, a Samaritan, returned to give thanks to Jesus (vs 15-18). After showing personal faith in seeking out the priests, why do you think the other nine did not return to give thanks also?
- How do we get caught in the same pattern of not giving thanks to God today?
- What did the man who returned to give thanks receive that the other nine did not?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud 2 Kings 5:1-16.
- Naaman of Aram was healed from leprosy in the same vicinity of where Jesus healed the ten lepers. How are these two stories similar?
- How are they different?
- How or why was Elisha open to crossing boundaries of social and national norms in this story? (vs 8)
- What was the stumbling block that initially prevented Naaman from responding to Elisha's invitation?
- How might this stumbling block have kept the nine from returning to Jesus to give thanks for the healing?
- How is it one "foreigner" seems to know to follow the positive example of Naaman from scripture while the others do not?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional reading above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How can working against a common hardship bring people together who are often divided by societal patterns? Where have you seen this in your life?
- What are the social boundaries in our lives that Jesus would have us cross with Him this week to bless others? What prejudgments of others in us might Jesus be challenging?
- What simple steps of faith toward wholeness might Jesus be asking of us that our pride struggles with?
- What people or blessings in our lives have we taken for granted or are overdue for giving thanks for?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- With "social distancing" as a protective measure to do no harm, in what ways can we be a supportive and helpful presence to others this week for Christ?
- A volunteer may lead the group in prayer about the concerns shared earlier in the meeting.