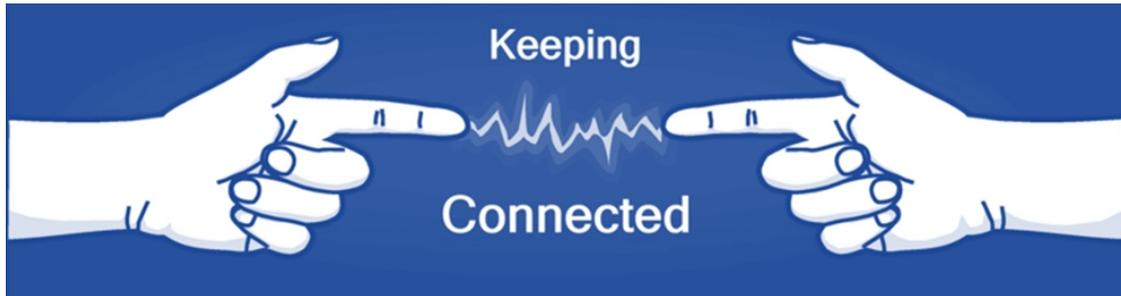


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For October 25 2020

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A Message from Rev. Jonathon
An Unlikely Miracle - Part 3

This is the third and final part of a three-part article on Jesus's healing of the ten lepers (Luke 17: 11-19), which was our Gospel reading for Thanksgiving Sunday.



In parts one and two of this article, I explored the historical and social contexts of this passage. I explained who the Samaritans were and why leprosy was such a feared disease. This week I will conclude by examining the dynamics involved in this healing miracle by examining five key actions on the part of those involved.

Throughout Jesus's lifetime, people had different reactions to Him and to His message. Some people accepted Him; some people were sceptical of Him,; and some people rejected Him. This passage begins when a group of ten lepers approached Jesus. This was the first key action. Like a shepherd going after a lost sheep, Jesus is constantly seeking out people and reaching out to them. But we also have a role to play in our interactions with Jesus. Jesus may be seeking us out, but we also need to approach Him.

The lepers then acknowledged who Jesus was. This was the second key action. They called

Him "Master". It is unclear if they understood at this point that He was the Son of God, but it is clear that they saw Him as someone with great authority. Calling Jesus "Master" showed that they were acknowledging His authority and were treating Him with respect. It is also possible that in calling Him "Master", they were acknowledging that they were submitting themselves to His authority. It is important that when we have an interaction with Jesus that we also acknowledge Him as our Master, both in our words and in our actions.

They then asked for Jesus's help. This was the third key action. The Bible says that the lepers asked Jesus to have "pity" on them. This word has also been translated as "mercy". They didn't specifically ask for healing, but given that they were in a very difficult situation, this was probably what was on their minds. The Bible says in many places that we should ask Jesus specifically for what we need through prayer.

Jesus didn't touch the lepers or prescribe an elaborate healing ritual for them. He simply told them to go and show themselves to the priest. This was done in order to certify that a healing from leprosy had taken place. The lepers obeyed. This was the fourth key action. They didn't ask for Jesus to say or do anything more. They didn't question his actions. When we ask Jesus for something it is important for us to obey in Him faith and trust that Jesus will do what He says.

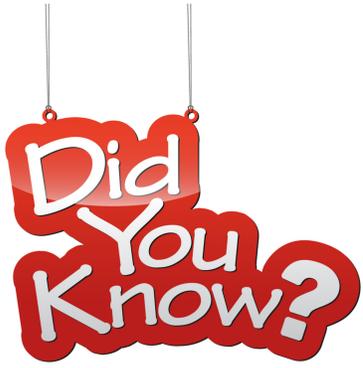
One of the lepers, a Samaritan, then returned to Jesus to offer thanks. He bowed down before Jesus. The original Greek word used in this passage indicates that the man was actually worshipping Jesus. This was the fifth key action. It is important for us to have an attitude of thanksgiving in our interactions with Jesus for all that He has done and continues to do for us. When we are thanking Jesus we are not just thanking anyone. And that is why our thanksgiving should take the form of worship. When we receive a blessing from Jesus we should respond with genuine thanksgiving for what only He can do.

These five key actions - approaching, acknowledging, asking, obeying, and thanking - provide a pattern for our own interactions with Jesus through prayer. And they were taught to us using a most unlikely person. This was truly a remarkable healing miracle and an example by which all of us should live.



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Bureaucracy or Safety?

We need to know every week if you plan to attend on Sunday by Friday at noon*.

This may seem weirdly bureaucratic until you know that each week the chairs are re-arranged to accommodate the singles and people in "bubbles" and ensure a safe 6 feet distance between them all.

Without this planning, there can be an unsafe people-jam at the door while greeters figure out where to seat everyone safely on the fly.

You may, of course, just appear on a Sunday morning without pre-registering. If our capacity of 40 people has already been met, you will unfortunately be turned away (an unlikely scenario at this stage). Or you may be seated in an unusual location (e.g. Music Team transept or behind the Communion Table).

Please arrive earlier than you would under normal circumstances. This too helps avoid people jams at the back of the church and allows the service to begin on time.

Thanks!

*Contact the office by phone (613-256-1771) or email (office@stpaulsalmonte.ca)





Before the service last Sunday morning.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Pentecost 21

Click on a reading to see the text from the
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on the Bible Gateway

- **First reading:** [Deuteronomy 34:1-12](#)
- **Psalm:** [Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17](#)
- **Second reading:** [1 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#)
- **Gospel:** [Matthew 22:34-46](#)



This is a text block. You can use it to add text to your template.

Your prayers are requested for our leaders at every level as the grapple with decisions related to keeping us and our hospitals safe from the resurgence of covid-19.

In the World. Pray for the Church in Wales.

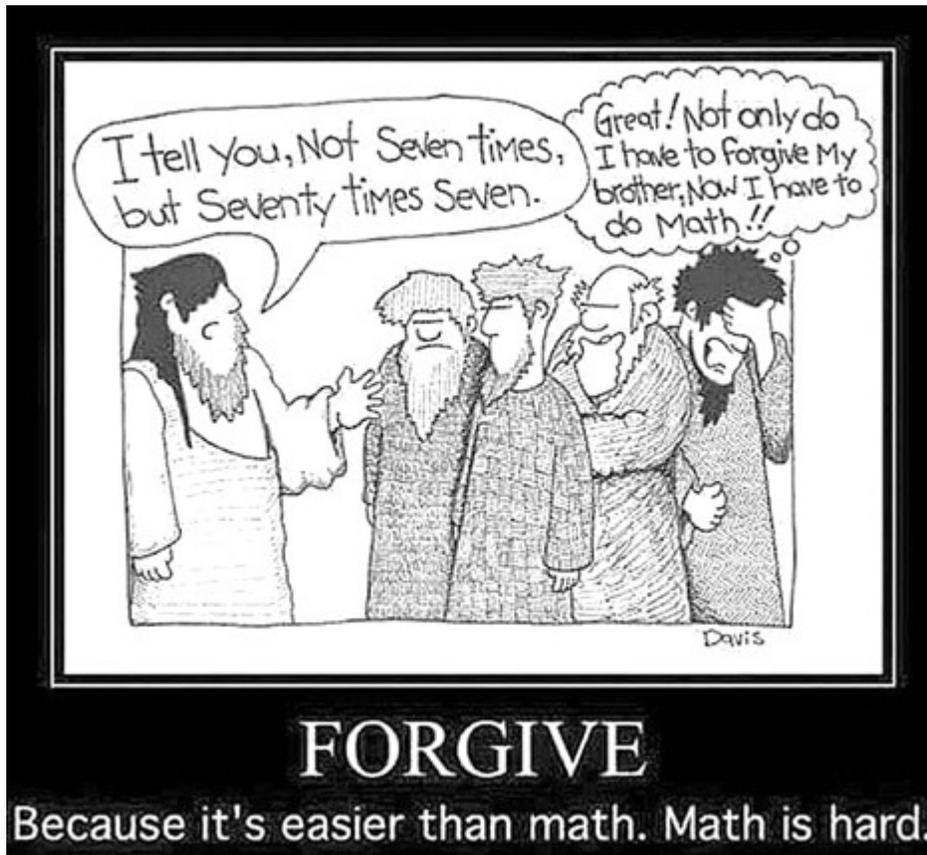
In Canada. Pray for Archbishop Melissa Skelton, the clergy and people of the Diocese of New

Westminster.

In our Diocese. Pray for the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, our bishop and Michael Bird, our assisting bishop; for St. Luke's, Ottawa - The Reverend Victoria Scott; for Hospital and Nursing Home ministries throughout our Diocese; for our Lutheran sisters and brothers on Reformation Sunday. Pray for the mission and outreach work of Ottawa Inner City Ministries, the staff, volunteers, clients and director Rev. Ken MacLaren.

In Our Community. We ask God's blessing on local faith communities and on their ministries and, we pray for the people and leaders of this town of Almonte and the surrounding communities that the Lord will help us contribute to its well-being. We pray for leaders, staff, volunteers and clients of the non-profit agency, The Hub.

In Our Parish. We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other. We ask for God's blessing on our members Jane Scanlon and Daniel Berg, Christy Bindhardt and Garland Best, Maurice and Judy Best, Ann Bird, and Jim and Barbara Blair. We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.



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