

THE BELL

November 2021

Gather, Love, Serve, Impact

Becoming the Leper

“On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a

Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

In the seventeenth chapter of Luke's Gospel is the story of ten lepers who encounter Jesus as He is traveling from Galilee to Jerusalem. By this point in time Jesus is well known in the region, and a majority of the people would have been aware of the many miracles and teachings that have taken place during His ministry. So when these men who had leprosy saw Jesus they shouted from a been healed of Leprosy. In commanding the

men to go to the priest Jesus is demonstrating not only His knowledge of distance. They were forced to shout from a distance as lepers were required to stay fifty paces away from those not infected to protect them. These men raise their voices as one and plead with Jesus to “have mercy” on them. Surely, they must have thought, if Jesus could cure the blind, heal the lame, and raise the dead, he had the power to help them. From their perspective they had nothing to lose as they were already outcasts and shunned by society.

Jesus in response to their pleas simply tells them to, “go, show yourselves to the priests.” Not any grand display of power, but just a command to be obeyed. And in the moment of their obedience, at the point where they turn to go to the priests the ten men are healed. Not because of the words said by Jesus, or by the laying on of hands, or the anointing of oil, but simply by the act of obedience to a command from the person they identify as “Master”.

Why the priests? Jesus tells them to go to the priests and to us that seems like a strange thing to say. However, in Leviticus 14:2-4, the priests are identified as the ones in the Jewish

community who were responsible for verifying that someone had

Scripture but also his obedience to the revealed Word of God. But there is one other point to understand. Presenting oneself to the priest to verify a healing was supposed to take place after the healing. When Jesus tells these men to go, they are not yet healed. And here we see a key to this whole passage. You see Jesus is commanding these men to act proleptically, which is a neat little word that communicates an aspect of faith. To act proleptically is to act on a reality that is not yet actual. Another way to explain this is in the book of Hebrews chapter 11, verse 1, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” These men demonstrate their faith in Jesus Christ by acting as if what He promised has already happened. They show that Jesus’ promises are not something to be taken lightly but are to be believed, cherished and most of all acted upon as if they have already come to fruition. It is this act of obedience that begins and completes their healing.

What is curious about this group of ten men is that when they turn to go and see that they are being healed they just keep walking. Only one man shows his thanks, or gratitude to the One who has healed them. And to compound that act this man is identified as a Samaritan. To the Jew a Samaritan was considered an apostate and unclean. They were viewed as lower even than dogs and unclean animals. So all ten men were miraculously healed, but only one returned to glorify and revere Jesus—and the one who returned was the least expected to do so. The experience of Jesus in this episode reflects that

of many pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and faithful believers in the church who invest their lives in other people and often see very little fruit. Many non-believers argue that if they could see one miracle they would believe. However, this episode seems to call into question whether that would truly happen. The other nine men, who were lepers, had witnessed that very miracle in their own lives, in their own flesh. They were obviously convinced of the miraculous and were content with it. But it didn’t lead them to Jesus, faith, or salvation. The Samaritan experienced the same miracle, but along with healing he encountered God as well. He turned and expressed his gratitude to Jesus and in that moment, Jesus declares him not simply cleansed, as a priest would, but the Greek word, “sozien,” used here means “cleansed,” “made whole,” and “saved.” All three are wrapped up in this one Greek word.

The Samaritan in this story represents perfectly a person of gratitude engaged in the act of thanksgiving. Too often we give thanks for those things that we can see, touch, taste or hear and we neglect being thankful for those things that are not material but have a more profound impact on our existence. I would urge all of us to be more like the Samaritan who was healed. Let us focus more on those things we cannot see but which have been promised to us by the one who knit us together in our mother’s wombs. Let us be a people who act on the promises that have been given to us as if they are already a reality. So that would mean actually living our lives as if we are saved, forgiven, loved, regenerated, made a new creation in Jesus Christ, and called to be the body of Jesus Christ.

Missions

Thank you to those who donated towards our Home Emergency Fund last month! The three missions chosen for our annual Thank

Offering will be: Right Sharing of World Resources, FUM Global Ministries, and Jennifer Davis in Rhode Island. Please designate which mission you want your donation to go towards on the memo line of your check. As always, you may designate your donation to whatever mission you want at any time.

Christian Social Concerns

Please join the IAYM Christian Social Concerns Facebook page. We are starting a new program entitled Love & Compassion in Action. We will be posting our Youth service projects and activities as well as any ministries that our church family participates in throughout the year. This will also be shared with other churches in the Iowa Yearly Meeting. We will be posting on Instagram for the youth to share with friends. Natalie Nichols will be the contact person for BLFC. This will be done with the use of pictures and 1–3-minute videos. Please submit any pictures or videos to Charlene Martin.

Trustees

A big thank you to those who came and helped at the church workday on October 23. Most of the tasks were able to be checked off of the list! Only ones that are left are, cleaning the two refrigerators, cleaning/organizing the maintenance closet, and finishing building the playground.

Calendar

11/17-DEEPER 6:00 meal and 6:45-7:45 classes

11/18-USFW movie night at church at 6:30

11/21-Thank Offering and monthly potluck-Committee A

11/24-No DEEPER

12/1-DEEPER 6:00 meal and 6:45-7:45 classes (Potluck)

12/5-Monthly Meeting

12/8-DEEPER 6:00 meal and 6:45-7:45 classes

12/12-Quaker Men's Breakfast 8:00

12/12-Christmas caroling, meet at church at 4:30 PM, caroling at 5:00, followed by a meal at 7:00

12/15-DEEPER 6:00 meal and 6:45-7:45 classes

On October 27, we had our Fall Celebration Party with pizza, ice cream, and games for the kids. In all, there were forty-three who attended. Thank you to those who helped put together, organize, and clean up!

The Children's Church group put together college care packages for our college kids recently. Always fun for the kids to help with, and a nice reminder for the college kids that we are thinking and praying for them in this next chapter of their lives.

Making Decisions

William McKinley, the 25th U.S. President, once had to choose between two equally qualified men for a key job. He puzzled over the choice until he remembered a longago incident.

On a rainy night, McKinley had boarded a crowded streetcar. One of the men he was now considering had also been aboard, though he didn't see McKinley. Then an old woman carrying a basket of laundry struggles into the car, looking in vain for a seat. The job candidate pretended not to see her and kept his seat. McKinley gave up his seat to help her.

Remembering the episode, which he called "this little omission of kindness," McKinley decided against the man on the streetcar. Our decisions-even the small, fleeting ones-tell a lot about us.

Adapted from
Presidential Anecdotes Paul F. Boller, JR.

Penguin Books

Library LedgeLibrary

Ledge-Fall is Here -More donations!

Fall is here. It's time to sit back and enjoy a book New to our library: Wild at Heart by John from our library. We have so many books in our Eldredge, Getting' There-How a Man Finds His library! Music CD's and DVD movies as well. Way on the Trail of Life by Steven Come in and see what we have. Farrar, Abba's Child by Brennan Manning and Missions by the Spirit-Learning from Quaker Examples by Ron Stansell.

Why does "slow down" and "slow up," mean the same thing?

Thursday, December 2 at 9:00 AM, Honey Creek New Providence USFW will host their annual Christmas Coffee.

Musical program performed by Alicia Daleske with traditional coffee & fellowship following the program.

MYSTERY FRIEND

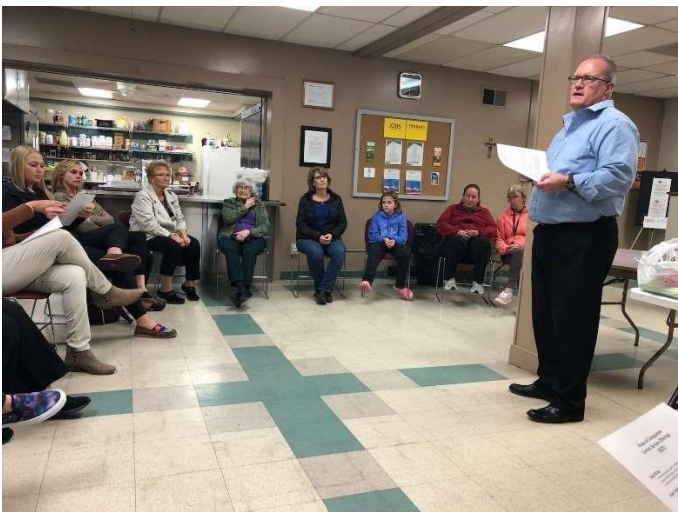
Our Mystery Friend for November was born in St Anthony and went to school in Clemons. They have 1 brother, 1 sister, 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. This person is a farmer. Favorite foods are ice cream and pork chops. Most people would not know this person's age. He/She has traveled to Ireland. They especially enjoy the fellowship at Bangor Liberty. Letters in our Mystery Friend's name are:

HMMGSTRLAOOIE

The Mystery Friend for October was Jo Ellen Gilmore.



Twelve Liberty USFW ladies and 3 guests had an enjoyable evening on Thursday, October 21. They met for dinner at Mama DiGrado's with Ann Nichols sharing devotions. After a short meeting, they traveled to The House of Compassion. The new director Chad Hammar was our host. He shared details of their various services including: soup kitchen meals, supply closet, and client services like help with utility bills, vouchers for medical needs, shower opportunities and employment training and mental health through cooperation with Iowa Valley. Several continuing programs like Stuff the Bus and Adopt a Family Christmas gifts were discussed along with new programs like English as a Second Language classes and weekly classes with ISU Extension helping young families with healthy eating/cooking and smart shopping. He thanked the group for the items of soaps, shampoo, and paper products they contributed for the supply closet.



The next meeting on November 18 will be at the Bangor Liberty Fellowship Hall at 6:30 to watch the movie "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood".