



Wednesday Prayer

18th Sunday after Pentecost – Jesus was known by the vulnerable

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."
Luke 17: 11-19

Dear friends, I am writing this on Tuesday as I sit on the patio of a bagel shop in the heart of Boston. There is so much to see related to the origins of this country. The sights and sounds are mesmerizing, yet I chose to sit in an uncomfortable space, about 20 feet from a man asking for money on the sidewalk, commonly called a panhandler and often avoided by many. I know nothing of his story as he quietly and courteously asks people for a handout. Boston is good at hiding its dark corners, but underneath it all is a complex and remarkable subculture of what some may call misfits and rejects, or victims, captives, and abusers.

When Jesus encountered members of this subculture, it was remarkable how many times Jesus was correctly identified. He was known by the hidden people of the streets and the roadways. That is no small thing. To be known by the unknown is where the church is to be, where we are to be, where Cherish All Children is to be. To be friend to those who dwell in darkness changes the order of things, and brings light to the most despicable places and the most vulnerable people.

Let us Pray:

Gracious Jesus, walking with you takes us into places and pushes us among people who are your friends. Help us to desire what you desire, and guide us to participate in healthy and meaningful ways in the lives of those who are in need of mercy, healing, and companionship. Amen.

Written by Pastor Nathan Tuff, Olivet Lutheran Church, Sylvania Ohio & Cherish All Children Advisory Board Member.