



The Shepherd's Voice

October 8, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

'Go and Show!'

“When Jesus saw the lepers He said to them, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went they were cleansed.” Luke 17: 14

Our Lord Jesus was full of compassion as He walked through areas that we might never walk through due to fear of disease or ‘unclean’ situations. Jesus was fearless and the perfect ‘cleanser’ for all human beings. The ten lepers cried out with urgency, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us”. He simply did. His mercy was magnificent. He healed them all as they obeyed His voice telling them that they should rise up (lepers who were feared by the public) and go straightway to the priests at the temple to confirm that they were healed. Imagine the outcry that would have gone up against seeing them walking into the city and people scattering in their path. But, these lepers were healed! However, they still looked the part with soiled and tattered clothing, perhaps still yelling out “Unclean!” as they went because it was their habit. Yet, they were clean, all of them! They did not know how but they knew who did it! Only one turned back to give Jesus the praise and glory due to Him...“only divinity could do such a thing” that man must have thought. The other nine went to do their duty, to go and show themselves to the priests for ‘official’ release from their disease.

It was a Levitical law that a person who was healed from leprosy had to show themselves to the priest. Leviticus 14:2-32 speaks of this. It really is quite elaborate and fascinating that “the priest shall command them to take for him who is to be cleansed two live clean birds and cedarwood and the scarlet yarn and hyssop. And the priest shall command them to kill one of the birds in an earthenware vessel over fresh water. And he shall sprinkle the blood seven times on him who is to be cleansed of the leprous disease. Then he shall

pronounce him clean and shall let the living bird go into the open field...etc.” The live bird sent into the wild is perhaps symbolic of the scapegoat carrying the sins into the wilderness. The red yarn is like blood sacrifice that is taking away the disease and the bird carries it outside of the camp of Israel. These were the laws of Moses as the Lord spoke them to him. Jesus fulfilled all intents of the law. There is an offering by the healed leper of a male lamb for a guilt offering and this burnt offering and a grain offering were to be placed on the altar. “Thus the priest shall make atonement for him”, the Scripture says. Nine of them we assume did this. One, returned to Jesus and fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks.

The one who returned to Jesus realized a greater gift. Not only was he healed, he was in the presence of the Healer. He showed himself to the High Priest of all high priests, the Christ. Jesus became for him the perfect sacrifice, not two birds, but one Lord and Savior. Now not scarlet wool but instead the blood of Christ foreshadowed. Not a scapegoat for his sins, but the atonement made in Christ’s life laid down for us as it would be in just a short time. Well, what do we make of this? Do those who realize their healings, their cleansed state of sin, their souls liberated from bondage of crimes against God, do they return to Jesus? Do you want to return to Jesus?!

Go and show yourself to Jesus! Each of us need to go and show ourselves to Jesus, in both spiritual and physical ways. Perhaps it’s through deep, private meditation and prayer that we enter into the presence of our Lord Jesus. Perhaps it’s through showing ourselves physically kneeling before the altar to receive His Body and Blood. Perhaps it’s through the sacred re-ordering of our lives through confession and absolution. In any case, we are required to “do something”! We are to “go and show” ourselves to Jesus, the High Priest.

We can and may show ourselves to the local priest too...you're always welcome to come and tell me about what God has done in your life so that we can rejoice and give thanks together for God's mighty works. As His under-shepherd, I am to pronounce absolution and remission of all your sins, to anoint you and bless you with renewed "at-one-ment" with the Lord (atonement). You are encouraged to 'go and show' yourself to the priests of this parish. But, most of all, realize that it is Jesus that you are honoring and glorifying, just like the one leper who turned back to Jesus.

Notice the Scripture says, "and as they went they were cleansed." They had to start moving toward God's holy temple, toward the place of worship of God, that then they were healed. It meant they had to obey, respond with action to comply with God's orders, and fulfill the duties of the Mosaic Law. Today, we need to get up, get moving toward God, and give up our selfish ways. We need to honor Him who sets us free from all sin and the suffering it usually causes within our lives. It means we have

to "Go & Show" ourselves to Jesus! Get up this Sunday and come show yourselves to Jesus!

It's vital that we have that devotion to Jesus, also the conviction of the Holy Spirit that prods us to seek and find our Lord Jesus, who is ready to give His mercy and compassion. It's essential that we seek His cleansing action for our souls. It's amazing and sheer awe and wonder when we realize that Jesus has changed the leprous sores of sin within into the new skin of anointed worship for Him. Like newborn babes we simply shine with radiance for the Master who touched us and made us whole again. As Jesus said to the one leper who returned to Him, so too He says to us who seek Him in thanks, "Rise and go your way, your faith has made you well."(v. 19).

Praying that all of us 'Go and Show' ourselves to Jesus day by day.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

October 13, 2013	Proper 23		9:00 a.m. Service
First Reader	Ruth 1:1-19a		Dick Phelps
Psalm Reader	Psalm 113		Jane Rost
Second Reader	2 Timothy 2:3-15	Second Sunday	James Clark
Intercessors		One Service	Mitch Dubski
Lay Euch. Ministers			Trish Stewart, Richard Rieder
Acolytes			Mitch D (C); Kai C (T1); Dasiahmarie (T2)
Welcomers			Maureen Green, Chris Corey, Anna Teixeira
Ushers			Ted Vallas, Jackie Lansing, Jim Livingston
Vestry Person of Day	Dink Nash		
Healing Ministers			Kay & Alfred Focke, Ann & JR Fox
Announcer			Judy Gillease
Counters			Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

New Bible Study beginning on Tuesday, October 15th.

Fr. Joe will be teaching on the first three chapters of the Revelation to St. John on successive Tuesday evenings starting Oct. 15th at 7:00pm. As the Scripture says, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." We'll take a look at what was said for the churches of Jesus Christ then and now. We'll ask ourselves the question, "Are we hot or cold?" Lively discussion will follow with some practical ways Grace members can employ. Come for this six week series and grow in the Spirit.

Sunday at Grace

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
9:00 a.m. Combined service
10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Vestry meeting

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Readings for Sunday

Ruth 1:8-19a
Psalm 113
2 Timothy 2:3-15
Luke 17:11-19

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

This Week at Grace – October 8 – October 15, 2013

Tues. October 8

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Colossians teaching (Last in the series)

Wed. October 9

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist at Grace
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Soaking Prayer

Thurs. October 10

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. October 11

Fr. Joe's Day Off
Kingdom Conference begins
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

Sat. October 12

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Kingdom Conference continues
10:00 a.m. Worship Team rehearsal

Sun. October 13

(21st Sunday after Pentecost)

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
8:45 a.m. Nursery opens
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Combined service
10:30 a.m. Food & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting

Mon. October 14

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Tues. October 15

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. The Seven Churches of the Revelation

You can still register for the Kingdom Conference!

October 11 & 12 at Carlsbad Community
Church in Carlsbad

Join your fellow Anglicans in this celebration of
Ministries that Work.

Archbishop Robert Duncan will be the main
speaker.

(This will be his last trip to the Western United States
while he is still Archbishop.)

There will be lots of interesting and informative
sharing sessions

Register today at
www.westernanglicans.org

You can also register at the
door.

Up-coming events

Oct. 9 Soaking Prayer
Oct. 11 Kingdom Conference
Oct. 12 Kingdom Conference
Oct. 13 **Fellowship Sunday** at Grace
7:30 a.m. – Spoken Eucharist
9:00 a.m. – Combined service
Oct. 13 Vestry meeting at 11:30 a.m.
Oct. 16 Br. Benno's Team meets at 6:10 a.m.
Nov. 8 & 9 Women's Retreat with Donna Brayton at
the Branches Healing Center