

DAILY BREAD

FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 18, 2010

This week's assigned reading: Luke, chapters 17 and 18.

Comments on the assigned reading:

- Chapter 17, verses 1-9 are also found in Matthew 18:6-9 and Mark 9:42-48. There may be some slight variation among the three versions, but usually when we find sayings of Jesus in all three Gospels, they are pretty much the same. Scholars believe that there were oral traditions that all three Gospel writers used as sources for their rendering of the Story of Jesus. That is why Matthew, Mark and Luke are called Synoptic Gospels (synoptic mean "with one eye").
- Notice that in the story of the Cleansing of the Ten Lepers (17:11-19), once again the hero is a Samaritan, as in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Attention to foreigners is a frequent theme in Luke's Gospel.
- Another frequent theme in Luke is that of how Christians are to think about and use money and wealth. An example of this is the story of The Rich Ruler (18:18-30).

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. The apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith, and he replied that if they had faith the size of a mustard seed, they could tell a mulberry tree to be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it would obey them (17:5-6). How deep and strong is your faith? What could help your faith grow and strengthen?
2. A spiritual director once said, "Gratitude is the heart of spirituality." For what are you grateful today? What would help you and all of us to be more thankful?
3. Jesus said, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it," (17:15-17). What does our Lord mean when he calls us to receive the kingdom as a little child?

Suggestions for prayer:

- Pray for Pastor Ralph and Katherine who will be training this week the health promoters from the rural congregations of the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala. Bless this little church, which is the size of a mustard seed, but has faith to uproot a mulberry tree and replant it in the sea.
- Pray for the residents and staff of the Golden Living Center, a care center in Roseville where leaders from Galilee lead a service every third Sunday of the month. Also pray for homebound members of Galilee: Barb Arndt, Rollie Berg, Phyllis Johnson, David and Arlene Lofstedt, and Ruth Ross.
- Pray for Pastor William Siong who is the mission developer of a new ELCA Hmong ministry on the East Side of Saint Paul. Galilee's contributions to the Saint Paul Area Synod of the ELCA help to support this ministry.

For the blog conversation on these readings, go to:

<http://web.me.com/ronald.peterson1/FAITHnrFUTURE/Blog/Blog.html>