

Worship Reflection  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 12, 2012

*PREACHING TEXTS:* 2 Kings 5:1-14; Mark 1:40-45

*The complete lectionary for the day also includes Psalm 30 and 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Sunday School is based in Mark 1:40-45 with a secondary focus on 2 Kings 5:1-14. The key verse in the lesson is from Psalm 30:2 – “O God I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.”*

***Guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***I'm Your child while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***Search my heart while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***Stand by me while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***Hold my hand while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***Guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.***

***(spiritual)***

The arc of healing continues in the early chapters of Mark's gospel. Today the healing of the leper in Mark 1:29-39 is paired with the healing of Naaman in 2 Kings 5:1-14. King Naaman has a clear sense of the scale at which things should happen in his life. For someone as important as himself, healing should be on a grand scale that all can notice. The problem with a grand scale is that it draws attention to itself. Jesus troubled about the grand scale issue in the Markan text. He urged the leper to remain quiet about his simple healing. However, as the leper spread the word about what had occurred, the scale of response threatened to overtake the core truth and teaching of the healing moment. What bears wholeness that is deep and transformative is often at odds with a good show or dramatic presentation. This is a tension that persists for us today. Can we run the race in faith, toward a depth of wellbeing, without giving into the very human desire for flashy attention?

***Peace, Martha***

## **2 Kings 5:1-14**

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

## **Mark 1:40-45**

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.