



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

"A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ"

Newsletter

Oct. 20 & Oct. 27, 2019

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Finding the Kingdom

I have noticed how careful, thoughtful, and, in a way, calculating Luke is in the writing of his Gospel and Acts of the Apostles. There are times when he interjects a sentence that seems random or out of place. I have come to expect these phrases, and I ask myself the same questions each time, "What is this phrase doing here? Does it remind me of a similar phrase in this book, and could the two be connected somehow?" In each case I have found that in fact, the repeated phrase connects the passages and this is the way Luke wants us to see them. Let me give you an example: A while back we read three parables that started with the same sentence, "There was a rich man who..." The repetition of the "Rich Man" phrase is meant for us to compare and contrast the parables, asking, "How are they similar? How are they different? Are they discussing the same thing? If not, does one advance the theology of the others?"

This week, Luke gave us the parable of ten lepers who are healed by Jesus, who then sends them to the priest to be certified as "Healed." On their way, they realized the miracle has already taken place. One of them returns, prostrates in front of Jesus, and shows him the gratitude, devotion, and respect he deserves. Then Luke gives us the following phrase, "And he was a Samaritan." At face value, the phrase seems out of place. The man didn't return because he was a Samaritan, he returned because he was healed. So, why put this phrase there? The logical conclusion is that we must compare this passage to another passage Luke gave us in chapter 10:25-37, when he told us a story of a man who fell victim to robbers who beat him and left him in a ditch. A Samaritan passing by placed the victim on his horse, took him to an inn, paid for his care, and left an open line of credit with the inn-keeper for additional expenses with the promise of payment on his return. Jesus then asks the question, "Who was the man's neighbor?"

So, we must compare these two passages. In both cases, the hero of the story is a Samaritan. This in itself is revolutionary. Jesus highlights the behavior of people considered by the Judeans as no better than foreigners. Why the animosity? It is a very long story: In the 10th century before Christ, the Assyrians took the northern 10 tribes of Israel captive and then relocated the Mesopotamians (Another conquered culture) into the area, forcing the mixing of their blood. To make matters worse, although technically still Jews, the Samaritans developed their own religious feasts and traditions, and had their own worship center in Shechem. To the righteous, pure-blooded, Jerusalem-centered people of the south, the Samaritans were unclean compromisers, with a diluted faith, and traditions contrary to the Law. Then, when the north (Galilean territories) were converted to Judaism in the second century before Christ, the territory of the Samaritans became sandwiched by two Orthodox Jewish territories.

The animosity between Samaritans and their neighbors was so intense that righteous Jews went out of their way to avoid walking into Samaritan territory. Imagine that Natchez is the Galilean territory and Baton Rouge is the Judean territory. That means

that West Feliciana Parish is Samaria, the in-between place. Now, imagine that a righteous Jew is traveling from Baton Rouge to Natchez. He would travel east to East Baton Rouge, then north to East Feliciana, then about 60 miles north after crossing the Mississippi border, and then west to Natchez. Another option would be to travel to the western border of Point Coupee Parish, then north to Avoyles Parish, then east to Concordia Parish, then across the State line to Natchez. All of this to avoid going through the most direct route, which would be West Feliciana parish.

In both parables there is a disturbing group of “others.” I believe Luke is asking us a question, “Are you the others?” This is an uncomfortable question. In the first parable, there was a Levite and a Priest who passed by and refused to stop to care for the dying man in the ditch. In the second parable there are nine others who refuse to return to pay their respects to Jesus. The choice for the listener in both parables is to either imitate the Samaritan or imitate “the others.”

In both parables the actions of the Samaritan illustrate in real life what the new ethic of the Kingdom of God looks like. It is as though Jesus is asking us, “Do you want to know what the Kingdom of God looks like? Let me show you by telling you the story of two Samaritans.” This is a radical message. In a way, Jesus is warning us, “Be careful about who you avoid because it may be that those people are the very incarnation of God’s Kingdom on earth. You are looking for God and his Kingdom, and this is a good pursuit, but be careful not to miss him altogether by avoiding those people you don’t consider worthy of your love and your attention.”

We know this is the case because the section that precedes the first Parable is a question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Another way to say this is “What must I do to inherit your kingdom?” The answer comes from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man then asks, “Who is my neighbor?” resulting in the parable of the Good Samaritan. In a way, Jesus is saying, “This is how you love your neighbor as yourself. And, by the way, your neighbor is anybody, regardless of ethnicity or class, who is in need of your compassion and care.”

The parable today answers the second question, “Do you want to know what loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind looks like? Well listen to the following Samaritan story.” We know this is the case because Jesus asks, “Were there not 10 of you? Has no one returned to give praise to God except...?” Notice he mentions that the praise the Samaritan gives is “Praise to God.” To love God the way Deuteronomy 6:5 requires means to drop to our knees in gratitude for all his blessings, healing, forgiveness, and compassion.

In a way, both Samaritan stories give us a real example of what love of God and love of neighbor look like. And both of these examples are given to us by despised people. Perhaps these people help us to become whom God wants us to be. Perhaps avoiding these people invariably makes us the people we ought not to be. Perhaps the Kingdom of God is filled with these contradictions because it is an upside-down kingdom. A kingdom where “winning at all cost” doesn’t apply. A kingdom where “win-lose” doesn’t apply. A Kingdom where meritocracy has no value. A Kingdom where God’s mercy and compassion is more important than ideology, theology, and political affiliation.

My friends, who are the people we are trying to avoid? How are we ever going to find God’s kingdom if we avoid the very territory where this Kingdom is to be found? Can we ever find Heaven without going through West Feliciana Parish? I don’t think so!

May God lead us into his Kingdom and may we be obedient to follow where he leads the way. Amen

**Intercessory prayers
are asked for Grace
Church members
who are ill:**

Valerie Barnes, Libby Dart, Jason Kennedy, Charlotte Maxwell, Elizabeth Denton Mitchell, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Carolyn Porche, Cozette Stevens, Kay Tengler, Anne Timmons, Mary Thompson, Wendell Wade, Pam Wilson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Megan Gill, Alex Persons, Lisa Fisher-Oct. 20; Ellen Williams, Madeline Horn-Oct. 21; Jane Daniel-Oct. 22; Mallory Achord, Jason Bell, Betsy Daniel, Natasha Kirschling, Mark Mulkey, Nicole Means-Oct. 25; Lisa Horn-Oct.27; Kyle Rhody-Oct. 28; David Treppendahl-Oct. 29; Adair Cunningham, Michelle Weller-Oct. 31; Ann Leggett, Clara Beaumont-Nov. 1; Susan Davis, Paul Opperman-Nov. 2

**Wedding
Anniversaries**

Sean and Katie Harrison, Larry and Susan Schneider-Oct. 20; Neil and Blaire LeBlanc-Oct. 27; Corey and Lisa Foster-Nov. 1; Jeff and JoAnne Ford-Nov. 2

Other persons

prayers are asked for:
 Claiborne Arbutnot,
 Charles Barham,
 Walker Bell, Micaela
 Kell Bennett, Wayne
 Bergeron, Isabella
 Bertucci, Leslie Bick-
 ham, Luanne, Phillip
 Bowen, Ben Brown,
 Steve Brown, Mason
 Brudewick, Willie
 Bryant, Randy Bryant,
 Darby Buras, Jenny
 Clark, Daryn Conrad,
 Rob Cox, Frances
 Woods Curry, Sandy
 Davenport, William
 David, Kathleen
 Davis, Jessica DeLee,
 Debbie Desmar,
 Helen Desselles,
 Cathy Doslovic, Molly
 Douglas, Amy Dwyer,
 Mark Ellison, Jen-
 nifer Erickson, Ellen
 Ewald, Sara Fahey,
 Mark Feltner, Dennis
 Flynn, Matthew Gill,
 Jerry Green, Jane
 Hamilton, Roy Har-
 din, Parke Hender-
 son, Wayne Hudnall,
 Joel James, Michelle
 Jeansonne, Henry
 Jones, Mary Jo Kaly,
 Cathy K., Mike
 Larisey, Jody Lem-
 oine, Jessica Liddle,
 Max, Charlotte
 Mayeaux, Ralph
 McKenzie, Laine
 Martrairn, Mary Anne
 McCrory, Ruby
 McKee, Cheryl
 Meaux, Robin
 Michel, Bill Miller,
 Jimmy Mitchell,
 Randall Nachman,
 Walter Oliveaux,
 Barton Platte, Eliza-
 beth Poole, Susanna
 Prescott, Tammy
 Riggs, James and
 Sylvia Roach, Cole
 Rourke, Gwin
 Shanks, Kaizlyn
 Shockley, Rusty
 Snyder, Cade Staple-
 ton, Kaitlyn Templet,
 Roland Toups, Millie
 and Howard Varner,
 Deborah Vines, Emily
 Walz, Dennisia Wil-
 liams, Deacon Zekes,
 Lynn Zinn.

Those serving in the
 armed forces

Parker Blanche,
 Amanda Browning,
 Jay Christopher, Ryan
 Coacher, Carlisle
 Cointment, John
 Davis, Joseph Dooley,
 Polly Finley, Bryan
 Geltz, Edward Jen-
 kins, Laura Latson,
 Shawn Lemons, Terry
 Palmer, James Powers,
 Jeff Ragusa, Christo-
 pher Willis, Aaron
 Zuccaro, 745th &
 746th Exped Squads,
 379th & 926th Ex-
 ped. Support Squads,
 101st Airborne Divi-
 sion (Air Assault), 1st
 222 Aviation Regi-
 ment.

It is that time again! Our Pledge Campaign will officially begin on October 14th, 2019. You will receive a letter from our chair and you will listen to several testimonies in Church about what Grace means to several parishioners. In the meantime, please discuss as a family what your current pledge to Grace is and whether you are in a position to increase your support. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Blessings, Fr. Roldan+

Vestry nominations for 2020 - 2023 are open. To serve on vestry, you must be: (1) a church member, (2) confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, (3) a pledger or contributor of record, (4) permit us to run a background screen, required Diocesan Policy, (5) willing to serve the Church in a leadership capacity, by attending monthly meetings, special meetings as appropriate, coordinating one full month of coffee hours (you will find a team of volunteers to help), and serving in subcommittees as appropriate. If you would like to nominate someone, please obtain their approval, and send Fr. Roldan an e-mail. We will accept nominations until December 1, 2019. There will be no nominations from the floor.

Calling all Halloween Candy Donations! Grace Preschool and Youth Group are participating in Trunk or Treat at the Sports Park on Thursday, October 24th. Please donate a bag of individually wrapped candy to the church office by Wednesday, October 23rd.

Save the date, Fr. Roldan will begin Newcomers classes on October 24th, at 6:00 pm for five weeks. If you have joined us since December 2018, or simply want to learn more about our Anglican/Episcopal identity and history, please plan to join us. Reception by Bishop Thompson will be on Sunday, December 15th at the 10:00 am service.

Father Roldan will conduct a training on October 29th at 6:00 pm for anyone interested in becoming a Lector or Eucharistic Lay Minister. Please call the church office if you are interested in becoming a part of this rewarding ministry.

The Over-50 Club will be going to the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans on Tuesday, October 29th. We will leave Grace's parking lot at 7:30 in the morning. This will be a whole day field trip, with lunch in the city. We will return to Grace by no later than 5:30 in the afternoon. If you would like to join us, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or send us an email. Scholarships are available.

The Seekers and Sages Book Club selection for October, is *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis. We will meet Tuesday, October 29th, at 6:00 p.m. at Coco and David Treppendahl's home. All are invited to come and bring a friend. Please e-mail Coco Treppendahl if you are planning to attend at cocotrepp@bellsouth.net.

Save the date, Fr. Roldan will begin Confirmation classes on November 6th, at 6:00 pm for five weeks. If you are in eighth grade or above and have yet to be confirmed, you are eligible to attend this class. Please speak with Father Roldan for more information. [Confirmation by Bishop Thompson will be on Sunday, December 15th at the 10:00 am service.](#)

Join us for a wreath laying ceremony on the grave of General Robert Barrow on Sunday, November 10th at 9:00 am. The Marine Corps will be here to honor the Marine Corps Birthday and General Barrow's Service. The Bible Study for this Sunday is cancelled and all are invited to attend a reception following the 10:00 am service in Jackson Hall.

The Baton Rouge Deanery will be hosting a Newcomers Ministry Workshop on Saturday, November 16th at 9:00 am - 3:00pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge. There is a \$20 registration fee which includes lunch. Scholarships are available. You can register at <https://iwcbreventrite.com>. If you would like to attend and want to carpool, please give the church office a call.

UTO Sunday is November 17th. We will be providing UTO boxes and envelopes for this ministry and collecting on UTO Sunday. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to Grace Church ECW with a notation in the memo line for UTO.

Interested in making a few extra dollars? Grace is looking to fill positions in the nursery during the 10:00 am service at \$15 an hour. If interested, please reach out to Meg Kendrick. Must pass background check and complete Safeguarding God's Children training.

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
St. Francisville LA 70775

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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

October 20, 2019

Acolytes: Paul Opperman, Joey Penno, Hayes Whatley, Evelyn Pollet

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Carol Stamey
10 a.m.: Karen Snyder, Joey Gammill

Ushers: Ellen Williams, Carl Fontenot

Lectors: Karen Snyder, Justin Penno

Vestry Rep: David Treppendahl

Altar Guild: Team 1

Children's Church: Renee Wilson

Altar Flowers: Susan and Larry Schneider

Sanctuary Candle: Charles and Betty Sessions

Coffee Hour:

Babysitters: Ashleigh Godke, Andrew Godke

October 27, 2019

Acolytes: Ella Corrine Howle, John Barrow Klein, Cecile Means, Jesse Means

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Bryan McClendon
10 a.m.: Maria Gerry, Sara Klein

Ushers: Tony Horn, Richard Kendrick

Lectors: Missy Higgins, Heather Howle

Vestry Rep: Leslie Daniel

Children's Church: Alicia Dwyer

Altar Guild: Team 2

Altar Flowers: Bobby and Jane Daniel

Sanctuary Candle: Sharon Gauthier

Coffee Hour:

Babysitters: Madie Kane, Emma Olsen

October 20, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 a.m. Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

October 27, 2019

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 a.m. Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, October 23

10:30am - Adult Formation

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

6:00pm - Adult Formation

Thursday, October 24

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, October 25

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, October 27

8:45am - Bible Study

10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, October 30

10:30am - Adult Formation

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

6:00pm - Adult Formation

Thursday, October 31

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, November 1

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study