



# still waters

home church studies

## psalm 66.1-12

[Worship]

1 Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; 2 sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise. 3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you. 4 All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name." Selah 5 Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals. 6 He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him, 7 who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let the rebellious not exalt themselves. Selah 8 Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, 9 who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. 10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. 11 You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; 12 you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

**Consider:**

[Think & Pray...]

**Divine Source, Human Means** The healing of the leper is packed with insights about healing. First, Jesus is not afraid of contamination. He does not regard holiness as separation, as did the Pharisees and Essenes. He understands it rather as the mighty power of God to heal. He rejects the notion that external things defile or pollute a person's essential being (Mark 7:15; Matthew 15:11).

In contrast to the traditional view, Jesus regards holiness/wholeness - not uncleanness - as contagious. Thus Jesus touches the leper, the unclean, women, the sick, without fear of contamination. Holiness is not something to be protected; rather, it is God's numinous transforming power.

Second, Jesus does not use healing to bring others under the spell of his own charisma. He merely sends these lepers on their way to the priest. Their *going*, their trust, their acting on his command activates their healing. He is not content merely to heal, but to restore their own sense of power: "*Your faith has made you well.*"

Third, there is healing, and then there is wholeness. Only one leper, recognizing his healing, returns to give thanks and praise. There is an aching sadness in Jesus' question, "But the other nine, where are they?" He had empowered them, and they think they healed themselves. So quickly they forget! They are still spiritual lepers. Why was it the lone Samaritan among them that returned? What is the difference between being cleansed (v. 14) and being made whole/well/saved (v. 19)?

Who are the people in your life who have been agents of healing for you? Have you glorified God for your healing? Have you thanked the people? Would a letter be appropriate?

*Walter Wink*

[The Scripture]

## 2 timothy 2 .8-15

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. 11 The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. 14 Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.