

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 33.1-12

[Worship]

1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. 2 Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. 3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. 4 For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. 5 He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. 10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. 12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

**Consider:** Shelley Douglass [Think & Pray...]

In Matthew we have a healing within a healing. Each one brings new life and hope: to a girl already dead, to a woman who had hemorrhaged for 12 years. Both women, both unclean. Each touched by Jesus or touching him—which would make him in his turn impure. Each healed. Mercy, not righteousness; Jesus is not reported to have purified himself after touching them.

Jesus embodies for us (literally) the radical mercy of God, reaching beyond the boundaries of social sin, disease, even of death, and healing where we are most hurt. Who among us has not felt after years of pain that some wound had healed, some flow of our life's blood stanching? Having felt that, can we deny it to our sisters and brothers? Can we lack hope that the rest of our wounds can be healed?



The earth belongs to God, and God invites us into mercy by extending mercy. We are not ordered to be merciful. We are healed by mercy and left with the light and the rain as our teachers. Be merciful, as God is merciful.

[The Scripture] **Matthew 7.13b, 18-26**

For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." 18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, 21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well," and instantly the woman was made well. 23 When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. 26 And the report of this spread throughout that district.