



Foundation for October 30– November 5, 2022

This week we will start a new worship series. Face To Face with Jesus. We are entering the story, placing ourselves in dialogue with Jesus. What a thrill it is to be face to face with Jesus. What a joy to be in his presence, hearing his word, receiving his instruction. We will discover that like those in these stories, we are often off track, often misunderstanding, often too much letting our own desires get in the way of hearing the word he has for us as the encounter brings about transformation.

Pastor Rick

AUTHORITY

Mon.
10/31

Luke 4:33-37— This passage is especially interesting because it is the first in Luke where we encounter demon-possession. It is also a passage where we see people astonished at Jesus' power – and no wonder. The middle east was full of people who could exorcise demons. But their methods were weird and convoluted. What a difference between all this hysterical paraphernalia and the calm single word of command of Jesus! It was his sheer authority which staggered them. Jesus' authority was something quite new. When the Rabbis taught, they supported every statement with quotations. They always appealed to authority. When the prophets spoke, they said, 'Thus saith the Lord.' Theirs was a delegated authority. When Jesus spoke, he said, 'I say to you.' He needed no authorities to buttress him; his was not a delegated authority; he was authority incarnate. Here was a man who spoke as one who knew. Jesus speaks and we know that this is beyond human argument – this is God.

Take time today to acknowledge the authority of Christ in your life to change your life to be a servant of God.

HE TOUCHED ME

Tue.
11/1

Luke 5:12-16 – Lepers were hated by others until they came to hate themselves. The leper came to Jesus; he was unclean; and Jesus touched him. Jesus touched the untouchable. His hand went out to the man from whom everyone else would have shrunk away. When we are faced with those we might deem “untouchable” or despised, when our hearts are filled with bitter shame, let us remember that, in spite of all, Christ’s hand is still stretched out. That is what Jesus did and does. It is of the very essence of Christianity to touch the untouchable, to love the unlovable, to forgive the unforgivable. Jesus did – and so must we.

Take time today to remember how Jesus has touched you and seek to discover how you can touch others with the love of God.

OUTCAST?

Wed.
11/2

Luke 5:27-32– Here we have the call of Matthew. Of all people in Palestine the tax-collectors were the most hated. Palestine was a country subject to the Romans; tax-collectors had taken service under the Roman government; therefore, they were regarded as renegades and traitors. Robbers, murderers, and tax-collectors were classed together. A tax-collector was barred from the synagogue. Yet Jesus chose Matthew the tax-collector to be an apostle. Jesus saw his heart and his desire to love God where others just saw him as an outcast.

Take time today to thank God that God sees your heart and your desire to love God. Ask God to help see people with God’s eyes and heart.

FAITH

Thur.
11/3

Luke 7:1-10— The central character in this passage is a Roman centurion; and he was no ordinary man. The centurion must have had the respect of his men, or he would never have held the post which was his. He had a completely unusual attitude to his slave. He loved this slave and would go to any trouble to save him. He was clearly a deeply religious man. A man would need to be more than superficially interested before he would go to the lengths of building a synagogue. He was a humble man. He would not even come to Jesus himself. He persuaded his Jewish friends to approach him. He was a man of faith. He came with that perfect confidence which looks up and says, 'Lord, I know you can do this.' If only we had a faith like that, for us too the miracle would happen, and life would become new.

Ask God to help you have faith like the Roman centurion. A faith that knows God does miracles.

GRATITUDE

Fri.
11/4

Luke 17:11-19— No story in all the gospels so poignantly shows human ingratitude. The lepers came to Jesus with desperate longing; he cured them; and nine never came back to give thanks. So often, once people have got what they want, they never come back. Often, we are ungrateful to God. In some time of bitter need we pray with desperate intensity; the time passes, and we forget God. Many of us never even offer a grace before meals. God gave us his only Son and often we never give to him even a word of thanks. The best thanks we can give him is to try to deserve his goodness and his mercy a little better. 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits' (Psalm 103:2).

When was the last time you thanked God for all your blessings?

