



### Lent reflection for Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

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Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

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Today's reflection is by Maeve Farrell

At first, this passage didn't sit very comfortably with me. *Why does Jesus say the Samaritan's faith has made him well?* I think to myself. *He's not really giving enough credit to the priests who, you know, actually did the healing!* Thinking about it further, however, I realize this reaction comes from my ego. If I accept Jesus' word that God was responsible for the healing of the lepers, I also have to accept that any good I've accomplished in my life wasn't a result of how fantastic I am. Instead, they originate, like all good things, from God. It's too easy for me to get caught up in the moment. I'll pray and ask for favors from God when I'm feeling frustrated and unhappy, yet congratulate myself when life is going well. In reality, I should take a leaf out of the Samaritan's book. It gave me hope that the one who showed the most faith was a Samaritan, an outsider. I often feel like an outsider to Christianity, or really to any spiritual practice. I'm pretty unequipped for a spiritual journey, especially in

Lent—I'm a sarcastic skeptic who is reliably terrible at any form of self-denial. But with God's mercy, I can have faith, and He'll take it from there.

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Maeve was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and has been attending Holy Apostles for about a year now. She's appreciated having a kind and inclusive Christian community right in her neighborhood and has loved getting to know the other parishioners. In her free time, she likes to play the violin and try out new recipes in the kitchen.

