

Lectionary readings: 2 Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2: 8-15; Luke 17: 11-19

For reflection and prayer

- **2 Kings 5:** Notice the unnamed servant girl whose humble intervention led Naaman to Elisha where he experienced healing and came to a faith in God. This surely shows how each one of us, no matter how insignificant we may consider ourselves to be in the grand scheme of things, can be the means of helping others to find faith and healing simply by being who we are, where we are, and by sharing our faith in small ways. Naaman was not only healed physically; he was also healed of his pride, his self-importance, his egoism. He was not healed because he had wealth or power or status but simply because he was willing to lay aside his ego and respond to God's invitation. God wants each one of us to be aware of how often we act out of our ego, instead of responding out of that deep place within us where God dwells. Perhaps this week it may be good for us to ask ourselves where that angry, hurtful word came from and to be aware of how often we react to a situation out of our ego instead of responding from the Holy Spirit within us.
- **Psalm 111:** Here are a few verses from 'Psalms for Praying' for us to reflect on. *'Praise the Beloved....I will give thanks to You with my whole heart, and to all who will listen, I will tell of Your goodness....I take pleasure in pondering Your work....You lift the hearts of those who suffer; You come to them in their need....You are*
- **2 Timothy 2:** When we face hardships, as Paul undoubtedly did, we can know God's presence with us. God has promised to be with us always, and He is faithful to His promises. No matter how often we turn our back on God, He is always holding out His arms to us in welcome. *'Come, even if you have broken your vows a thousand times. Come, come yet again. Come!'* Here are some words from Margaret Silf for us to reflect on: *'Where you are, however unchosen, is the place of blessing. How you are, however broken, is the place of grace. Who you are, in your Becoming, is your place in the Kingdom.'*
- **Luke 17:** Jesus meets the ten lepers where they are as He does us. Here is a commentary on this passage which I hope will speak to you as it has to me. *'Faith ... is about trusting (releasing, yielding, letting go). The hardest thing we will do in life is ...finding Peace in powerlessness. It is letting go of attempts to control God and the world. It is yielding a stubborn human ego to that Power surpassing understanding ... to that most gentle, gracious Being called God. Our wounded diseased spirits are made whole not by the ego's control or scheming, nor by self-righteous venting of anger, but by humbly 'coming to the waters' of cleansing Life, by gently 'presenting ourselves to the priests'. Healing is found in complete yielding of ourselves to God. It is an attitude of trust in times of turmoil, peace in times of powerlessness. It is gratitude for the healing Life we already have in the Presence within us of true Power.'* (Robert J Miller)