

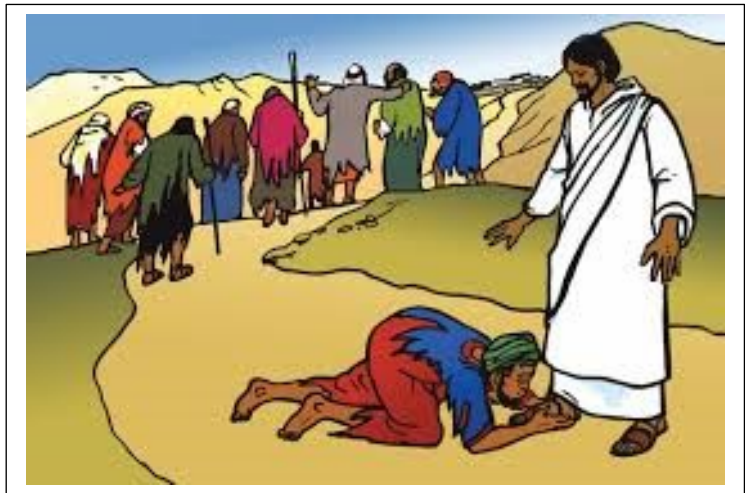
We are all asked to “clap for carers” on Thursday evenings at 8pm. This is of course right and proper that we should but there are lots of others who have gone on serving our communities in spite of the danger to themselves and their families. People like the bin men, those who collect our doorstep re-cycling, the people who deliver our post, lorry drivers who bring the supplies to the supermarkets and many more.

In the Bible there is a story about a man who said thankyou - I wonder how many of you would remember it?

There were ten men who had a disease called leprosy. This was a horrible infectious disease which caused lumps to grow on the body and causing severe nerve damage, and anyone who had it was not allowed to live in their own village or with their family. If they went into a town to get food they had to have a bell to ring and call out “unclean, unclean” so that people nearby could get out of their way and not catch leprosy.

One day there were ten lepers - men who had leprosy - on the road when Jesus came walking by on his way to Jerusalem. Now these men had heard about Jesus and all the wonderful things he had done. They stood at a distance and called out to him to make them well again. Jesus prayed for them and told them to go and find a priest who would be able to declare them well and free of leprosy, so that they could re-join their families and live a normal life. The men saw that that their fingers and faces looked normal again - they really were well!

Nine of these men rushed off to share their good news with family and friends – did they go back to Jesus and say thank you? NO, they did not; only one man went back, a Samaritan, praising God in a loud voice. He knelt in front of Jesus to say thank you for healing him. Jesus was disappointed that none of the others returned, but Jesus sent this one man on his way saying that he was well.



There are some similarities in this story to what is happening now in the world – a nasty disease, having to keep our distance from others, not being able to be with members of our family that we love – like our grandparents or cousins etc. Let us never forget to say “thank you” not only to the carers and all those who support us, but also to God who is always there for us.

You can read this story for yourself in your Bible,
in the New Testament in Luke chapter 17 verses 11-19.