

## Bible Study #3

### Bread on the Border

#### Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, in this world, suffering and pain often isolate and distance us even from you. In the midst of all things, reach out and draw us close to you and to those isolated from the church and from society, that all may be united in you. Amen.

#### Luther's Small Catechism

*"Give us today our daily bread."*

*"What does this mean?"*

In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.

*"What then does 'daily bread' mean?"*

Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

—Martin Luther, *The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, Small Catechism*

#### Show Video

*"Bread on the Border"*

#### Bible Study and Discussion

Take a few moments to reflect on the glimpses of life and ministry on the El Paso/Mexican Border of our Rocky Mountain Synod.

- *How have these glimpses challenged you to understand daily bread and border people in new ways?*

#### Read Luke 17:11-19

*(Jesus' cleansing encounter with 10 lepers.)*

Notice in verse 11, the location.

- *Other than a geographic location, why is this important to the story?*



- *From the video and scripture, what do you find unique about borders?*

In verse 12, the lepers *"...approached Jesus, keeping their distance,"*

- *Why are they keeping their distance?*
- *How is Carmen and her daughter's crossing the border for surgery similar to the leper's experience?*

#### Reread verse 13 - 14

*(Lepers were required to separate themselves in Jesus' day and their disease often made their voices hoarse, their cries for mercy hard to hear. However, people often ignored their cries, and averted eyes from them.)*

- *Jesus saw the lepers and did not ignore them. How is that a challenge to each of us?*

Recall from the video Pastor Rose Mary Sanchez-Guzman's challenging questions: *"When we give communion, who is invited to the table? Are those who speak a different language invited to the table? Think of all those people who want a little piece of bread. Are they fully part of the body?"*

- *Who are those on the fringes of your community who need a little piece of bread?*

Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey focuses upon people, not their worldly status, and listens to their desires for a better life for their families.

- *How might we better work with those on the fringe of our communities? What are new ways we might “listen” and “see?”*

**Reread verse 14b**

Showing oneself to the priest certified that one was healed, which allowed re-entry into society. Jesus acknowledges the rightful role of their religious function.

- *What are the cooperative ministries in your community?*
- *Reflect on the trust needed to start off to the priest in an unhealed condition?*

Pastor Rose Mary speaks of her people’s faith in God in the midst of surgeries without health insurance, wages too low to cover basic food and housing needs, and families split by deportations. She shares how this strengthened her own faith.

- *When have you stepped out in faith in the midst of challenging circumstances?*
- *How has that helped your faith in God to grow in new ways?*

**Reread verse 15-18**

Nine apparently obey Jesus and go to the priests. One “disobeys” and turns back, praising God.

- *Why “God” and not Jesus?*

In verse 16, the Samaritan “Prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him.” Note that the “distance” of verse 12 has been eliminated.

- *In your community, what “distances” are you challenged to eliminate?*

The bite of the story is at the end of verse 16, “And he was a Samaritan.” Substitute “undocumented immigrant,” to sense that bite today.

Jesus uses another “Good” Samaritan in the parable in Luke 10:25-37.

- *If Samaritans had not been looked down and despised by society, like undocumented immigrants and the poor today, would these two texts have any bite?*

Recall 91 year-old Socorro’s praise and wonderment, and the “cure” for her loneliness—the Cristo Rey

community. She hopes to live to 100 so she can continue to help others and share the love of Christ.

- *What lesson might these examples of gratitude offer for us?*
- *How does grateful sharing draw us closer to Christ and each other?*
- *What are some new ways of showing gratitude in your community of faith?*

**Reread verse 19**

In verse 19, we see that ten were cleansed, but one was made well.

- *What’s the difference between “cure” and “healing?” How is your congregation guiding people towards health and wholeness?*
- *How has your encounter with God’s word and God’s people at the border changed the way you think about daily bread, wellness, and faith?*
- *What new or expanded ministry ideas for your own faith community will you take with you as Jesus sends you on your way?*

**Closing Prayer**

**Sing or Read ELW Hymn #469 (verse 3)  
“By your Hand You Feed Your People”**

*Join in prayer together:*

*Lord Jesus, Word of God enfleshed for the world, we thank you for this time we have spent in your Word. May it draw us closer to the mission that you would have our congregation live and unite us more fully in the mission of the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
Amen.*

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*To learn more about Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey visit [www.cristorey.webs.com](http://www.cristorey.webs.com)*

*To learn more about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services visit [www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org)*