

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE 2

Jesus crosses boundaries that others are afraid to transgress ...

Jesus crosses a boundary when he heals the **hemorrhaging woman** (Lk 8:44). According to Hebrew scriptures this woman was constantly unclean, but Jesus interacts with her, and in so doing, restores her to full health.

Jesus crosses a boundary when he **touches the leper** (Lk 5:12). It may not have been leprosy as we know it today; the biblical terms may have covered a multitude of skin diseases. But the law was clear that people so afflicted had to live beyond the limits of the village, yet Jesus reaches out to him and cures him of his affliction.

Jesus crosses a boundary when he **casts out demons** from the man possessed (Lk 8:27). Demoniacs were to be avoided at all costs; there was no predictability what they would do next, except that they were always a dangerous presence. Yet, Jesus goes to him and casts out the evil power.

Jesus crosses a boundary when he brings the **little child into the midst of the elders** of the temple (Lk 9:47). Nobody paid attention to children; they were non-entities until they came of age and could be productive citizens. Until then, they were just mouths to feed. But Jesus saw in them the Kingdom of God.

Jesus crosses a boundary when he meets the **Samaritan woman** at the well (Jn 4:7). Samaritans were the least of the least; this was a racial, ethnic, and cultural judgment. No self-respecting Jew would be caught talking to a Samaritan. And, a Samaritan woman! A double sin! But there he was in noontime daylight engaging her as the God-created person that she was.

Jesus crosses a boundary when he makes the **poor and the powerless** into the heroes of his parables. It is the widow and her mite, the farmer in the field, the shepherd searching for the lost lamb, the good Samaritan along the road. The least became the exemplars of the most.

Jesus crosses a boundary when he saves lives and **cures the sick on the Sabbath** (Lk 4:32). Jesus transgressed the law of the Temple to honour the will of God.

Jesus crosses a boundary when he **withdraws from the crowd to pray** (Lk 4:32). Jesus shows us in this act that we can't do any of these acts alone. In all these boundary crossings we need to do it in the company of God.

So, "let us go across to the other side," says Jesus to his disciples. It may be a tough crossing; the waves may be threatening. The welcome on the other shore may be strained. But the dead calm of sitting out in the middle of nowhere is nowhere to be as people of faith.