

In today's Gospel we hear about people coming from all over to be healed and taught by Jesus. They are coming, many people are coming and it just goes on; Jesus and the apostles seem to have no time to sit down, relax and have a bite to eat.

Why do the people come? Why did the people come and begged Jesus to be allowed to touch the fringes of his cloak?

It says: and all who touched it were healed!

But how did they – the people - know?

They knew, because, they recognized them; they recognized Jesus!!

The Disciples had just come back from ... how should I put it a mission trip. They had journeyed through the wider community, proclaimed that all should repent, they cast out demons and anointed many with oil who were sick and cured them. So they had a reputation and because of that they were recognized and people came from all places.

The same with Jesus, he had a reputation; people knew that healing is close by where Jesus walks.

“ Lets just touch the fringes of his cloak; - and all who touched it were healed!!!

So how do we get there? How do we develop a reputation, that healing can be found here at St Nicks? How do we develop a reputation so that people want to come here, want to come to church?

Lets make it here as personal as it gets:

Why do you come to church? Why do you come here on a Sunday morning?

What are you looking for? What do you want? What do you really want?

What is it I want?????

Now for myself I can say – Yes I am getting paid to be here - but that aside; I am going to church to get more I want more from God; I want as much healing (as) I can get

So how do we get in touch with Jesus here at St Nicks on a Sunday morning? How can we touch the fringes of his cloak and get healed?

Since Jesus isn't around anymore – he did die and became the Christ, we can not do this by sight; we have to do this by faith.

Through faith, through grace; we join and touch Christ in the mystery, in the sacrament of the Eucharist. This is the always becoming body of Christ!
This is the communal side of our faith.

But touching Christ has another side, a very individual side; we do not touch Christ with our hands and by sight, we touch Christ by and in faith through our hearts.

And this I believe is our biggest issue with Christ; we have a very hard time to touch, to reach Christ, because our hearts have hardened.

The more our hearts are hardened the more we are closed for Christ!
The more our hearts are closed the worse our reputation gets.

So who or what softens our heart?
Grace and God's, Christ's compassion;
That Love that surpasses all understanding.

God uses every crack he can find to get through to our hearts to soften and heal them. And that he does as lovingly as it gets!

When we injure others or are injured by others our hearts harden and we don't shine anymore; we lose the childlike ability to love with a soft heart, with a gentle heart; we become hardened and dull with the corresponding reputation; who wants to be around us?

Christ restores and heals the broken heart; Christ makes us shine again; what better reputation can we have than be healed by Christ?
A heart healed by Christ will be recognized!