

**Thoughts on the Daily Word:**

*32<sup>nd</sup> Week of Year. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Readings: Wisdom 6:1-11; Psalm: 81; Luke 17:11-19.*

As so often in the Scriptures, geography tells it all! Jesus is travelling along the edge between two peoples, very close to each other, and equally hating each other as heretics. The Samaritans could be traced back to the northern kingdom of Israel and the remnant left behind in the great Exile to Babylon. The returning exiles brought a new dimension of Jewish faith and a very Jerusalem centred religion. It doesn't say whether the village that Jesus enters is Jewish or Samaritan, but he is met by complete, poverty-stricken outcasts of both communities. The symbolism is powerful, and Jesus reaches out to heal them, both Jew and Samaritan. Only one evidences faith and returns to Jesus who commends his faith and sends him out. Faith here means faithfulness and a cleaving to Jesus. This is the response of faith to being made whole. In this case faith doesn't lead to healing but healing leads to faith.