

## Proper 23 – Year C

## Fun Page

# What's Happening in Sunday School?

The theme in the readings, made explicit in the Old Testament, Psalm and Gospel, is God's mercy poured out on the outcast and foreigner, to bring those outside the covenant people of God into relationship with God. We see this in Ruth's inclusion into the community at Bethlehem (through her love for Naomi), the lifting up of the poor and childless in the Psalm, and the healing and benediction of the Samaritan Leper in the Gospel. What is less apparent is the bearing of the Epistle on this theme. For starters, St. Paul's exhortation makes it apparent that ethnic descent is not the prerequisite for inclusion in the body of the faithful, but rather faithfulness to Christ, who is faithful to us. Moreover, St. Paul points out that our Lord's descent from David, along with His resurrection, fills the void of our lack of descent, and so makes us all equally responsible to keep the commandments of Christ. So, we are to avoid disputing about "words" - a symbol for useless, secondary arguments, such as who belongs by descent, and who by adoption - since such matters only create confusion for the people who hear such arguments. Rather, we are to live the faith of Christ, by doing what He calls us to do, and so present ourselves as diligent before God.

## Digging Deeper

Discuss with your children someone you know who either doesn't believe in Christ or doesn't go to church and think of some ways that, as a family, you can invite them to church. Where else in the Bible are Samaritans brought up?

Find a country that is entirely or largely unevangelized and pray for them ([www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net) is a good resource).

G T F R R H Q U F M O L S X Z  
N H E A L I N G Y F O Q G N V  
Q J R M F E T M K Q F E H L S  
L B S S K X P N W R X J T R X  
K B L R Z J D E F S V V D S I  
D V F A C E U B R Z A R U Q C  
F V O X V S U G O R G J F A X  
T H L O F U S A M A R I T A N  
X C N G U S F H R V F Q F D D  
X T T H A N K F U L P W A V H  
I J M P W C K H N R Q U I S V  
B J F O R E I G N E R S T C X  
Z V I B Y Z J N F T N O H L O  
C M E R C Y Z S J X C B S W M  
N U Q N E N B E G I B Q Q A A

created at - <http://tools.atozteacherstuff.com/word-search-maker/>

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HEALING  
JESUS  
LEPER  
MERCY  
SAMARITAN  
THANKFUL