

Righteous Anger:

Depending on which translation chosen for this week's Gospel of Jesus healing the leper in Mark 1, Jesus is either compassionate OR angry. The psalmist identifies the "other side of God's power." I like to believe Jesus felt anger when people were abused, oppressed and bound by those "elemental powers of the universe" that Paul identified. The God I find so hard to understand also seems to be a bit more affected by humanity than I would like; a bit too symbiotic at times.

I slept poorly last night, wrestling with all the details of opening a clinic where indifference rules until it's really personal. Knowing I "think big" when simplicity is best, I struggle with myself as much as with others. The church doesn't want to be bothered because clinics do not generate funds, they require subsidy; the nurse wants to do the ineffective work like before in a dirty atmosphere where one wears gloves because there is no water for hand washing; and a community leader doesn't want too many making decisions and won't make budgets or reports because it isn't good to let anyone know how the business is managed.

We have reached the point of "familiarity" where some have discovered we aren't easily controlled or manipulated and others now realize we tend to think about "the whole" especially when overpowered by the needs of every individual. The "quick fix" has become a "program" that requires plans and receipts and record keeping. Ugh. Most want and certainly "need" to think about the now of hungry tummies and running noses but judge the long term plan as unimportant in the everyday scheme of life.

The wind moved from the North to the South today and although was just as strong it was called "a breeze". I feel a movement from "wonderful presence" to "this sounds like work and accountability!" "You REALLY want me to pay back the loan?" ...and ..."it would be ok to slip me some money for food or a couple of bags of cement..because I won't tell!" "Why are you here if not to give me what I need"?

I called President Raphael to see if paperwork was completed on the GBGM pickup for use on La Gonave. He said Monday we could come for it and "bring" the one we have! Not part of the "deal" for us to relinquish the pickup we have virtually rebuilt and now can use to transport teams with two available. I suggested he could advance the \$4000.00 we are paying to bring "ours" and he hesitated.

I believe Jesus touched the leper because he was angry at a system that considered people less than the law, or rules, or traditions, or the power of those "in power." I believe, one of our team members had a great idea when he suggested La Gonave needs to secede from Haiti AND the church! I believe I woke up from last night aware I am not Haitian, and the only way to be effective is to be who I am...and touch lepers, in righteous anger and compassion.

