

**"GOD IS WHO GOD IS: GOING OUT OF HIS WAY!"**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 - THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**ISAIAH 35:4-7A; JAMES 2:1-10,14-17; MARK 7:24-37**

**Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.**

**Most of us do not like going out of our way for anything. We have demands on our time. We barely get where we need to go. We usually look for short cuts, ways to cut corners, rather than willing to go out of our way for either a person or a purpose. Today in our readings, we hear the call as followers of Christ to go out of our way. James reminds us, 'faith without works is dead.' In Mark's Gospel, a woman goes out of her way to make herself known to Jesus, and in the end it is her faith that helps her go out of the world's way of doing things. Other followers go out of their way to bring a deaf man to Jesus. As a new fall season of worship begins, be blessed anew, for God is who God is, forever going out of his way to renew us, to call us forth, to save us, to grace us, in Jesus Christ!**

1. As we hear of Jesus going out of his way to serve the needs of others, we hear once again, God is who God is, blessing us to go out of our way in the name of Jesus Christ. Mark 7:24, 31
  - A. Unfortunately, as humans, we often go out of God's way.  
James 2:1-10,14-17; Mark 7:34-35
  - B. James calls us to go out of our way, because 'faith without works is dead.'  
James 2:14-17
  - C. The woman in Mark's Gospel goes out of the way of most.  
Mark 7:25-28
  - D. Faith, like that of the woman in Mark's Gospel, will help us go out of the way we usually do things, out of the way of the world. Isaiah 35:4,7a;  
James 2:3-4,8-9,17; Mark 7:26-30,32-33,36-37
    - i. Faith will help us go out of our way to welcome others.
    - ii. Faith will help us go out of our way to include one and all.
    - iii. Faith will help us stay strong and persistent as we go out of our way for Jesus.

2. Thanks be to God; God is who God is, and it is Jesus who goes out of his way, for each person and for God's purpose, time and time again. Jesus truly serves the needs of others, reveals and proclaims all God is, and saves us, one and all!  
Isaiah 35:4; Mark 7:24,28-29,31-32,37
  - A. God in Jesus welcomes one and all! This text speaks more harshly to those on the inside than to those on the outside. Jesus came to the Jews, and they are not accepting of Christ as the Messiah. We are to welcome Jesus, and to welcome others.
  - B. God in Jesus saw though we were made in God's own image, we were obviously different from him and his perfection. Still, Jesus went to the cross to include us, to include one and all!
  - C. Let us trust God in Jesus Christ is the most persistent of all! The cross is God's persistent `yes' to the world's persistent `no.'
  - D. Trust whatever you need, God is who God is! God's grace is proclaimed in Jesus, who will go out of his way for you, time and time again!