

FALL WORSHIP SERIES

WEEK ONE: LUKE 17:11-19 "FAITH IS...BEING THANKFUL"

SERIES VISUAL ARTS

What does Pop Art have to do With the Gospel?

As we were planning for this series, "Faith is..." we noticed how frequently Jesus challenged the traditions and conventions of his culture:

- who returns to say thanks? A Samaritan!
- who makes a stubborn judge give in? A widow who won't take no for an answer!
- who is forgiven, blessed, honored and changed by Jesus? Nobody you would expect.

Obviously Jesus was working with a different set of values. The throw-aways of his day were those he chose to dine with, to heal, to bless. He turned his world upside down.

The artists of the pop art movement presented a similar challenge to the institutions of fine art by featuring styles and imagery from common advertising, comic books, and mundane cultural objects in their work. They challenged conventional ideas of beauty and opened the doors of the exclusively elite art world to pop culture and the masses using humor and irony and familiar ("common") images. This brash approach to art was at great odds with the prevailing sensibility that, by its nature, art dealt with "profound" expressions or ideas. Furthermore, pop artists' idealization of mass-production, which theoretically would allow everyone access to their art, undermined the business model of the gallery and museum as curators of taste and brokers of quality.

THIS WEEK'S ARTIST: ANDY WARHOL

...was born Andrew Warhola in 1928. He was an artist, director, and producer and a leading figure in the **POP ART** movement. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Warhol suffered from a neurological disease during childhood which gave him blotchy skin and frequently left him bedridden. He spent this time well though, drawing and absorbing popular culture through the radio and magazines.

Warhol earned a degree in pictorial design from the Carnegie Institute of Technology and was commissioned by Glamour Magazine to illustrate shoes for advertisements. He had his first solo exhibit of his work in 1962. It included the now iconic Campbell soup cans ("100 Soup Cans") and Marilyn Diptych.

Warhol was a practicing Ruthenian (Byzantine) Catholic. He regularly volunteered at homeless shelters in New York City and described himself as a religious person.

The iconic Marilyn Diptych inspired today's featured artwork, "10 Lepers." The repetition of the images and bright colors of the different lepers echo Warhol's distinct style. Breaking out of that pattern, one leper not only faces the opposite direction, his coloring is closer to reality, his robe shows the texture of homespun cloth, his hands and torso are pictured, and he breaks out of his framed square. By returning to Jesus to thank him, the Samaritan leper set himself apart from the others and was honored by Jesus for his faith.

NEXT SUNDAY: "FAITH IS...BEING PERSISTENT"

What do you expect when you appear before a judge?

Most members of Village Chapel would expect stern but fair justice. But some of our neighbors have less lofty expectations. Their experience has taught them that they are often ignored or treated unfairly by the justice system and by figures of authority. That's not how things are supposed to be, but it is how they often function.

So what are the powerless to do? They must be persistent, loud, annoying even! That is the only way they can hope for something like justice.

So when you pray for justice, what do you expect?

Faith is...



Ten le - pers called out to the Lord, "Have



mer - cy on us, please!" Though ten were healed, just



one said thanks: Faith brought him to his knees!

Refrain



Faith is our hope; Faith is our strength; Faith per -



sists when shak - en. When we fall, faith



lifts us up; Faith in Christ's sal - va - tion.

TEXT: Amy Parker
MUSIC: Sheldon W. Sorge, 2000
Music © 2000 Sheldon W. Sorge

MY SOUL THIRSTS
CM with refrain

SHARING OUR STORY VIDEOS

How would you finish this sentence? "Faith is ..."

As part of this series we will be producing short videos to get your answers. They will be shared each week in worship and through social media to engage us all in telling our faith stories. If you'd like to make a video contact Amy Parker.