

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel – Adapted from Mark 1:40-45

A person with leprosy came to Jesus and knelt down, begging him, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Jesus was moved with pity, stretched out his hand, touched the leper and said, “I do wish it. Be made clean.” Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

Then Jesus told him, “Do not tell anyone about this, but show yourself to the priest and make the offering that Moses commanded; that will be proof for them.” The man went away and told everyone about it, so Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. He remained out in the country, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.



Reflection

Today's Gospel gives us a look at Jesus's Heart, and His power. A man with leprosy approached Jesus. Leprosy is a terrible disease that can cause parts of a person's body to die before eventually killing that person. In its advanced stages, leprosy is very difficult to look at because of the way it deforms the body. In the days of the Gospel, there was no cure for leprosy, and people who had it had to live apart from the community.

When the leper comes to Jesus, he is asking to be healed of a deadly disease, and also to be restored to the community, to his family and his friends. The Gospel tells us that Jesus was moved with pity. His Heart went out to this man. Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him. It was probably the first time this man had been touched by another person in a long time. And the man was healed.

God uses the horrible disease of leprosy to help us understand sin. People didn't get leprosy because they were bad sinners, but the truth is that sin is what really makes us unclean. But usually, other people can't see it on the surface. Many people are able to hide the way sin is destroying them from other people; only those who really know them can see it. But leprosy's disgusting effects are plain to see. In that way, the disease gives a visual reminder of how disgusting and deadly sin really is. Where can we go, if we are dying from sin? If sin has cut us off from the people of God? We should go to Jesus, like the leper in today's Gospel. If we ask Jesus to heal us, He will have pity, reach out and touch us, and make us clean.



Discussion Questions

How do you think the man with leprosy felt when he realized that he had been healed?

Why do you think some people who are being destroyed by sin, don't come to Jesus, like the man with leprosy did in today's Gospel?

Vocabulary

- **Faith** – Faith allows us to believe in God, and His power to heal us. The man in the Gospel had faith that Jesus could heal Him. We must have faith that He can heal us, too.
- **Leprosy** – A disease that causes damage to nerves, and parts of the body start to die. In Gospel times there was no cure, so it led to death.
- **Pity** – Compassion; concern for another person's suffering and a desire to help.
- **Reconciliation** – When people who have been enemies, or separated, come back together. The sacrament of Reconciliation frees us from sin and brings us back into relationship with God and the Church.

Fill in the blanks

- 1 If we are suffering from deadly sin, we can be healed through the sacrament of _____.
- 2 Jesus has _____ on those who are suffering, and so should we.

3 It takes the virtue of _____ to believe that God will heal us.

4 The disease of _____ gives us a good reminder of how disgusting sin really is.

Quiz

- Whom did Jesus heal in the Gospel?
 - A blind man
 - A deaf man
 - A paralyzed man
 - A man with leprosy
- What did the man who was healed do?
 - Tell everyone
 - Exactly what Jesus told him
 - Get leprosy again
 - Look for Peter
- True/False: Sin is even worse than leprosy.
 - True
 - False

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

CLEAN
FAITH
LEPROSY
PITY
RECONCILIATION
SIN

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- Reconciliation
- Pity
- Faith
- Leprosy

Quiz

- D – A man with leprosy
- A – Tell everyone
- A – True



