

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday Feb 7th, for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: Good and gracious God, thank you for enabling us to gather to listen to your holy Word and to share life and fellowship. May your Holy Spirit show each of us the message you want us to hear today. Cleanse our hearts of all that would prevent us from hearing your Word and acting on it. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Mark 1:40-45

The Cleansing of a Leper.

40^o A leper* came to Jesus [and kneeling down] begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.”

41 Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.”^p

42 The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.^q

43 Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

44 Then he said to him, “See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.”^r

45 The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.

He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Notes

* [\[1:21–45\]](#) The account of a single day's ministry of Jesus on a sabbath in and outside the synagogue of Capernaum ([Mk 1:21–31](#)) combines teaching and miracles of exorcism and healing. Mention is not made of the content of the teaching but of the effect of astonishment and alarm on the people. Jesus' teaching with authority, making an absolute claim on the hearer, was in the best tradition of the ancient prophets, not of the scribes. The narrative continues with events that evening ([Mk 1:32–34](#); see notes on [Mt 8:14–17](#)) and the next day ([Mk 1:35–39](#)). The cleansing in [Mk 1:40–45](#) stands as an isolated story.

* [\[1:40\]](#) A leper: for the various forms of skin disease, see [Lv 13:1–50](#) and the note on [Lv 13:2–4](#). There are only two instances in the Old Testament in which God is shown to have cured a leper ([Nm 12:10–15](#); [2 Kgs 5:1–14](#)). The law of Moses provided for the ritual purification of a leper. In curing the leper, Jesus assumes that the priests will reinstate the cured man into the religious community. See also note on [Lk 5:14](#).

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Who are the marginalized and 'untouchables' in our society? What can help us deal with these brothers and sisters as Jesus would?
2. Who might be people who may feel unwanted in our parish today? Why? What can be done to overcome this barrier?
3. All of us have seen the connection between leprosy and Covid-19, which are both very contagious diseases. People are fearful of them. These diseases force people to isolate from the community. For you, what has been the worst part of this Covid-19 pandemic? What helped you or continues to help you during this distressing time?

Commentary

Although excluded from the community, lepers are allowed to attend synagogue, but they sit behind a protected screen, never daring to come into the main part of the synagogue. While we do not know the exact location of today's event, perhaps it occurs during a synagogue service. Recognizing Jesus to be a holy man, the leper may have done the unthinkable: he rushes from behind the screen and approaches Jesus. He believes Jesus can heal him, but he was not sure if Jesus will want to heal him. "If you wish, make me clean." Then Jesus does the unthinkable, he stretches out his hand and touches the untouchable, thereby incurring ritual uncleanness. Jesus tells the rejected man: "Of course I want to heal you. Be made clean." Jesus' touch heals the man not only on a physical level but also on a social and spiritual level. He no longer feels rejected by the community or by God. We notice again a reference to the messianic secret (explained in last week's commentary). The leper is told not to tell anyone about his healing – but how does one contain wonderful, good news? So, he runs off and tells everyone. The man is told to go to the priest so he can get a certificate declaring himself clean, enabling him to once again mix with the community and worship with them.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom

Wednesday, Feb 7 6:30 – 7:30pm

Weekly on Wednesday

Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: Feb 7, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join?pwd=Z0ludisqD0sE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPq/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d->

[jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89811466699?pwd=UVdFVmo1SmJObUJqc3VqcytQOTdpQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 1146 6699

Passcode: 284618