

Sixth Sunday Of Ordinary Time

“Look into My Heart and see there the love and mercy which I have for humankind and especially for sinners. Look, and enter into My Passion.”

- Jesus to St Faustina (Diary 1663)

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Some people have lost their hope in God due to the fact the time their life experiences and there are also people whose hope in God is still alive, even when they are worse in their life situation. Today hopelessness is seen everywhere and people are unable to withstand their pain or sorrow. As a result, many give up life in despair and disappointment. Faith and hope in Jesus will help us all to be healed and liberated because He is our Healer and Redeemer, who has a great love for us all, as I quoted from His words in the beginning.

The leper in today's Gospel had heard that Jesus had healed many people. He had heard that Jesus was a man of compassion and power. And the leper wondered if Jesus could make him well. But all of a sudden his wonder became a deep belief that Jesus could cure his disease. He did not go begging of Jesus to heal him, or demand that he does so, but he went and asked whatever Jesus willed for his life. “If you choose, you can make me clean.” I like this passage of scripture because it has many important lessons for us to see.

1.) Submission And Surrender: The leper has a prayer different from most. He is neither like the widow who persistently begs the unjust judge for justice nor like the woman who touches a fringe of Jesus’ cloak after suffering from bleeding for twelve years. On his knees he prays, “If you are willing you can cleanse me.” His gesture and prayer show that his disposition is one of submission and surrender. In Jeremiah 29:11 we read, “Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” “The leper”

in the Gospel acknowledges this. The plans of the Lord are for our welfare, far better than the plans we have for ourselves. Jesus tells us that anyone who wants to be His follower must “deny” his own will and submit to the Will of God. No doubt the leper would wish to be healed yet he does not insist but surrender to the Will of Jesus.

2.) Let Your Will Be Done: The leper said, “if you choose”. No demand, no pleading, no begging, no bargaining with Jesus, just a simple statement, “If You Will”. The leper let his healing be in the hands of Jesus. In other words, he was saying to Jesus, I am putting my whole life into your hands! If you Will, you can cure me, and if you decide I shall remain this way, then so be it. Isn’t that an act of faith, a tremendous act of surrender, and attitude that tells us something about this man’s conviction in this man’s belief in Jesus Christ?

3.) Jesus Moves With Piety: The Gospel says that Jesus was moved with piety, Stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” and immediately leprosy left him and he was made clean. Jesus did it for sake of the man, He didn’t turn His back on Him, He didn’t ignore him, Jesus was moved with piety and stretched out to touch this man and make him clean. Jesus acted because he knew how lonely, how miserable, how forsaken this man was. Jesus led the leper out of the ditch of despair, loneliness, misery, pain, and suffering. When we go deeper into today's Gospel we will also see two important unthinkable and remarkable things happen in the lives of Jesus and Leper.

a.) Both Did Something Unthinkable: Lepers were the outcasts of the society. They were driven from their homes and lived in isolation. The leper who was supposed to keep a distance from the people instead came close to Jesus [unthinkable]. The Jewish law forbade anyone from touching a leper because that would defile them ritually. But Jesus, unlike the people of His time who fled at the sight of a leper, touched him and made him clean [unthinkable].

b.) Both Had Something Remarkable: The leper not only had the strong desire to be healed but also had firm faith in being healed by Jesus hence he approached Jesus confidently and humbly, expecting that Jesus would heal him [remarkable]. Jesus not only had the willingness to heal but also had Merciful love to touch. Jesus not only grants the man his request, but He demonstrates His compassion and mercy by His physical touch. [remarkable].

All of us need spiritual cleansing from our sinfulness. Like the leper let us realize that Jesus alone the “Sinless one” can purify us and make us whole. We may not be able to do the unthinkable [extraordinary things] but certainly. we can all do the remarkable. Because when man’s MISERY meets Divine MERCY in FAITH there is MIRACLE. STRONGER the faith, GREATER the result. Because God not only FEELS, He also HEALS. Praise the Lord! Amen!

Wishing you a prayerful fruitful lenten season, Fr. Bala Kommathoti

