



Daily Reflections

June 30, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 8: 1-4

When Jesus came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And then a leper approached, did him homage, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I will do it. Be made clean." His leprosy was cleansed immediately. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

Our Scripture Reflection

Lepers were to stay six feet away from a non-leprous person according to the Law. But that did not stop the desperate man who fell down in front Jesus. Nor did it prevent Jesus from accepting the pitiful, suffering man. He was, first and foremost, a son of God and Jesus treated Him with dignity and love.

Food for your Journey

Speaking of the remarkable work Drs. Paul and Margaret Brand, and their colleagues performed at the Karigiri leprosarium in India and of the patients

who received their care, Philip Yancey writes in his book *Soul Survivor: How My Faith Survived the Church* (79):

“All this elaborate medical care went to ‘nobodies,’ victims of leprosy who had mostly made their living from begging. Many who arrived at the hospital barely looked human. Their shoulders slumped, they cringed when other people approached, and the light had faded from their eyes. Months of compassionate treatment from the staff at Karigiri could return that light to their eyes. For years people had shrunk away from them in terror; at Karigiri nurses and doctors would hold their hands and talk to them. Unrevolted, unafraid, the staff listened to the new patients’ stories, and used the magic of human touch. A year or so later these patients, Lazarus-like, would walk out of the hospital and proudly head off to learn a trade.”

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You always showed compassion to those who were suffering. Increase my capacity to love those who are hurting, especially the least in Your Kingdom. Amen.