



Daily Reflections

February 11, 2018

Scripture

Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron,

"If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants.

If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

"The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard;

he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!'

As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean.

He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

Our Scripture Reflection

Leprosy was such a sad disease in ancient times and not just because of the physical manifestation of the disease. To be declared a leper meant that one was treated as an outcast and had to separate themselves from all who were non lepers, including family members. They were left to begging for their food. What a sad and lonely disease, that is, until the day Jesus came along.

He would not only heal physical wounds but mental, emotional and spiritual wounds as well.

Food for your Journey

Mother Teresa, whose sisters in Calcutta run both a hospice and a clinic for leprosy patients, once said, "We have drugs for people with diseases like leprosy. But these drugs do not treat the main problem, the disease of being unwanted. That's what my sisters hope to provide." The sick and the poor, she said, suffer even more from rejection than from material want. "An alcoholic in Australia told me that when he is walking along the street, he hears the footsteps of everyone coming toward him or passing him becoming faster. Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty."

One need not be a doctor or a miracle worker to meet that need. -- Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995), 173.

No, one only needs to be a spoon.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, More than meeting the material needs of those who were hurting, You loved them as well. Help me to realize that the poor and sick are my brothers and sisters in You. As I seek to meet their needs may I love them as You love them as well. Amen