



Daily Reflections

January 11, 2019

Scripture

Luke 5: 12-16

It happened that there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where Jesus was;

and when he saw Jesus,

he fell prostrate, pleaded with him, and said,

"Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean."

Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said,

"I do will it. Be made clean."

And the leprosy left him immediately.

Then he ordered him not to tell anyone, but

"Go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The report about him spread all the more,

and great crowds assembled to listen to him

and to be cured of their ailments,

but he would withdraw to deserted places to pray.

Our Scripture Reflection

I have always been puzzled by the cautious words of the poor leper as he petitions Jesus for healing: "Lord, if You wish..." It seemed he was uncertain that Jesus would really care about his plight. Why? Perhaps everyone else, including family and friends, refused to get near him as the law required. But

not so with Our Lord. Breaking the law, Jesus touches him and heals him immediately demonstrating definitively that He does want the man, and us, to be well and whole.

Food for your Journey

In the town of Athens, Georgia, there is a social service agency called The Potter's House. In this agency, discarded people such as drug addicts and alcoholics learn to re-enter society by fixing people's discarded appliances. There are two simultaneous processes of recycling going on: Drug addicts and alcoholics are rehabilitated as they rehabilitate cast-off appliances. There is no waste in The Potter's House as individuals collect old appliances, repair them and sell them, only to discover that they themselves are repaired in the process.

There is no waste in the Potter's House." The potential of all humanity rests in the idea that God does not create waste, God recycles! There are people who have tough times in life and they may feel that they can not make it any longer. But God does not create waste. Fortunately, God is ready and eager to take what is broken and fix it; what is wounded and heal it; what is defiled and cleanse it; what is bitter and sweeten it; what is impure and purify it; what is incomplete and make it whole; what is ugly and turn it into something that is beautiful.

--Rochelle Richards, "At the Potter's House," Sumner First Christian Church Website, September 4, 2005, sumnerfcc.org.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You never missed an opportunity to show Your love and compassion to those who were hurting in any way, including the hideous leper. Fill my heart with Your love so that I may never ignore the needs of those who are suffering. May they see Your love in my love. Amen