



# Daily Reflections

## January 8, 2021

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### Scripture

#### **Luke 5:12-16**

And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy, who seeing Jesus, and falling on his face, besought him, saying: Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

And stretching forth his hand, he touched him, saying: I will. Be thou cleansed. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

And he charged him that he should tell no man, but, Go, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing according as Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.

But the fame of him went abroad the more, and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

And he retired into the desert, and prayed.

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### Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus had proclaimed to the hometown crowd in Nazareth as He began His public ministry that His mission would be to those who were at the bottom of the pile of life.

One could not get much lower than the leper. Considered a total outcast, a terrible sinner and completely separated from family and friends, he lived a miserable existence, that is, until Jesus came along. The Law was clear that no “clean” person could get anywhere near an unclean leper. But that does not stop Jesus! He not only comes near the man....He touches him as well.

And He not only cleans this leper but In Chapter 17 of Luke’s Gospel He will cheanse ten lepers as well. What a gift!

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## Food for your Journey

On his way to church, a scholar was surprised to see a man in tattered clothes and barefoot. Nevertheless, as a good Christian, he greeted the poor man: "May God give you a good morning!"

The poor man replied cheerfully, "I have never yet had a bad morning."

"Then may God give you good luck!"

"I have never yet had bad luck."

"Well, may God give you happiness!"

"I have never yet been unhappy."

The scholar then asked the man, "Could you please explain yourself to me? I do not understand."

And the poor man replied, "With pleasure! You wish me a good morning, yet I have never had a bad morning. For when I am hungry, I praise God; when I feel cold, or when it is raining or snowing, I praise God; and that is why I have never had a bad morning.

"You wish that God may give me luck. However, I have never had bad luck. This is because I live with God and always feel what he does for me is the best. Whatever God sends me, be it pleasant or unpleasant, I accept with a grateful heart. That is why I have never had bad luck.

"Finally, you wish that God should make me happy. But I have never been unhappy. For all I desire is to follow God's will; I have surrendered my will so totally to God's will that, whatever God wants, that is what I also want. That is why I have never been unhappy."

—Attributed to Meister Eckhart.

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## A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You broke the religious Law of the day in order to show Your love and compassion for an outcast leper. May I never miss an opportunity to reach out in service to those who are deemed the least in Your Kingdom. Amen