



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 28, 2017

Scripture

John 5: 1-16

There was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep Gate a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked. Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." He answered them, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'"

They asked him,
"Who is the man who told you, 'Take it up and walk'?"
The man who was healed did not know who it was,
for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there.
After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him,
"Look, you are well; do not sin any more,
so that nothing worse may happen to you."
The man went and told the Jews
that Jesus was the one who had made him well.
Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus
because he did this on a sabbath.

Our Scripture Reflection

"Sir, I have no one to help put me into the pool." What a pathetic response the paralyzed man makes to Jesus' question about his condition. Jesus, however, needs no pool of water. At His word of command the man is healed immediately. There are many people in this life who are "paralyzed", with depression, loneliness, addiction and the weight of their sins. Jesus wants us to use His Grace to pick them up. How? Through our prayer, through acts of mercy and compassion ... through our love in His name.

Food for your Journey

If you see your brother standing by the road
With a heavy load from the seeds he's sowed
And if you see your sister falling by the way
Just stop and say, you're going the wrong way.
You got to try a little kindness,
Yes show a little kindness,
Just shine your light for everyone to see
And if you try a little kindness,

Then you'll overlook the blindness,
Of narrow-minded people on the narrow-minded streets.
Don't walk around the down and out,
Lend a helping hand, instead of doubt.
And the kindness that you show every day
Will help someone along their way.

--From "Try a Little Kindness," Glen Campbell, who earlier this year was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Make me a channel of Your peace to those who are hurting.
Amen.