

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

LORD, IF YOU WISH...

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

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."

MATTHEW 8:1-4

Reflection

Earlier in Chapter 7 of Matthew, Jesus instructed his disciples to "do the will of God." Here, he himself enacts God's will to heal -- thus showing that his own will is one with God's. "If you wish, you can make me clean." Notice that Jesus doesn't only speak words of healing, but also offers a healing touch, a visible

connection with the leper. (This was considered a very dangerous gesture when dealing with infectious skin ailments.) Notably, having leprosy automatically excluded a person from the community, condemning him/her to a life in isolation. The healing of the leper was foremost about reinstating the person back into the community. Jesus' healing words and loving gesture enact God's strong desire to gather us together into God's holy embrace.

Intent on fulfilling the Law, Jesus sends the man to the priests to acknowledge his healing, thus completing the ritual for reincorporation into the community. In the name of the faith community, the priests acknowledge God's wonderful gift ... before any spreading of rumors.



Person Washing Hands
Image by Ron Lach

For Pondering

- What is the healing you most desire today? Make your desire known to your God.
- When have you participated in someone else's healing? What was her/his/your response?
- What gift of healing do you ask for our world? Your contribution would be _____?

For Prayer

*God of wholeness,
God of healing,
hear our words,
accept our prayers;
send a special blessing of healing
to the world
that is in desperate need
of your healing blessing.
Amen.*

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