

February 11, 2018 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do all things for the glory of God!

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Psalm 32:1-2,5,11

1 Corinthians 10:31-11: 1

Mark 1:40-45

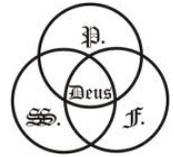
Moses and Aaron are given instructions on how to examine and deal with lepers. The lepers are to rend their garments, keep their heads bare, muffle their beards, and dwell apart from others, and declare themselves "unclean" should others be near.

The psalmist recognizes as blessed those whose fault is taken away, whose sins are covered, upon whom no guilt is imputed and in whose spirit there is no guile. He acknowledges his sins to the Lord, covers not his guilt, but rather confesses faults. In this way the guilt of sin is taken away and he rejoices in the Lord and advises all who are upright of heart to rejoice with him.

Paul encourages all brothers and sisters in the Lord to do everything for the glory of the Lord. Everyone is asked to avoid giving offense to others but rather please everyone in every way. No one is to seek things out for their personal benefit but instead for the benefit of the many so that all will be saved.

A leper comes to Jesus, kneels down and begs for healing. Jesus reaches out, touches him, and the leper is healed. He is given instructions "tell no one" and is to go to a priest in order that he be declared as "clean." Instead he publicizes the happening everywhere and Jesus is now unable to enter a town openly, keeps to deserted places and people continued to seek him out.

Do everything for the glory of the Father,
Do it through the Son,
Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Lepers were required to separate themselves from the community in order not to spread a contagious disease. In fact they were to shout, "Unclean! Unclean!" if someone approached them. The leper in the Gospel has so much faith that he approaches Jesus who takes pity upon the suffering man and makes him "clean" again. While the healed man is told to keep this incident quiet he publicizes it everywhere. It is paradoxical that now it is Jesus that is forced to keep himself isolated and the healed leper is able to move around freely. Jesus now stays in deserted places but people constantly seek him out. Personally, imagine those who "bear the sores of leprosy" as those whom our culture rejects and excises.

We understand that when we do wrong we will pay a price but in today's gospel Jesus indicates that oftentimes doing good has its sacrifices attached. The leper in the gospel was restricted in his travels until he is cured by Jesus but afterwards could move about freely. Jesus, on the other hand, had to restrict himself to isolated places after the healing otherwise he would have been constantly mobbed by those seeking healing. The healed leper was told to "tell no one anything" but publicized it everywhere. How many times are we confided in only to break the confidentiality at a later time? Just as the leper may have thought he was doing good we too may cause hardship for others in seemingly innocent talk. Be careful in your words and always respect the wishes and dignity of others.

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