

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time C2025

In today's Gospel, our Lord is wondering why the nine other lepers did not come back to thank him while they were also healed like that foreigner. To understand the importance of our Lord's question, we have to bear in mind that in the ancient world leprosy was a very devastating disease. It was seen as God's punishment or a consequence of sins that someone has committed.

In addition to its destructive effect of the sick's body, it also put him civilly and religiously out of the normal functioning of society. Thus, anytime someone was cured, the Law of Moses recommended that he shows up to the priests so that they attest his healing.

What is particular in the case of the ten lepers is that our Lord sent them to the priests even before their healing. Such a doing shows that our Lord anticipated their healing and even knew very well they would be cured before they arrived there.

By healing they recovered the physical integrity of their body and, at the same time, they were reintegrated into society by enjoying all the privileges they lost with their sickness. With such goodness shown to them and the favors received, they should be grateful enough by giving thankful appreciation to our Lord who allowed that to happen to them.

That is why, beyond the problem of healing that we all need, our Lord wants to awaken us to the reality of the human condition. In fact, life is fragile and surrounded by many limitations. We need God to restore us to full health and to the integrity of our body. We need also the intervention and the presence of many people around us without whom our life would be very precarious.

For instance, without the help of our parents who took care of us, we would not be who we are today. Without the gentle attention of our doctors who care for us when we are sick, we would be lost. Without the effort of our teachers who opened our eyes to the reality of the world, we would have remained blind. Without the friendship of so many people who care for us, life would be difficult. Without the love of our spouses and the members of our families, life would be miserable, etc.

Our Lord gives us an opportunity to think about all those people and thank them. That is why, by raising the question of nine lepers who did not come back to show their thankful appreciation, our Lord is also warning us against ingratitude. Against the tendency of taking things for granted, our Lord reminds us that gratitude is a duty we should all have in our hearts.

Of course, it is true that sometimes we feel incapable of repaying what has been done to us; but the tragedy is that we often do not even try to repay it. How often have we been ungrateful to God! Sometimes when we have troubles, we pray with intensity and ask God for help. But, once the bad things are over, we forget him and we go our way as though nothing has happened to us at all.

Sometimes converts and new comers to faith are more appreciative and grateful for all that God has done for them than the cradle Catholics. Moreover, Human experience has taught us that once people obtain what they want, they forget their benefactors. How often some people have been ungrateful to their parents? The truth, however, is that without them we would not have been who we are today. Whatever might be the evolution of our relationship with them over the years or the judgement whether they have been bad or good, they remain our parents and worthy of respect.

And yet, some people do not talk to their parents. Others do not call them at all even once a year. Some others take pleasure in loving their spouses, but they push them to cut off any relationship with their parents.

How often have we been ungrateful to one another! And yet, we know that human life would be impossible without the presence of so many people whose service we benefit from. What would our life be without the presence of the police, teachers, doctors, priests, mechanics, farmers, business-people of all kind?

Let us ask our Lord to help us be thankful to God for his many blessings toward us. Let us offer him our sickness so that he may heal us physically, emotionally and spiritually. Let us ask him to help us remain faithful and persevering, especially in the moments of difficulties and sufferings. Amen.

2 Kings 5: 14-17; 2: 2-4; 2 Timothy: 8-13; Luke 17: 11-19



Homily Date: October 12,

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Document Name: 20251012homily.pdf