

Friday Week 12B

First Reading: 2 Kgs 1-12;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137: 1-2, 3, 4-5, 6;

Gospel Reading: Mt 8:1-4.

THEME: Be Healers Like Christ

At the time of Jesus, whenever a person touches an unclean animal, corpse, or leper, ritual defilement occurs. Thus, the Jewish law forbade anyone from approaching or touching lepers. Jesus approached the unapproachable: he touched the untouchable. This miracle is a confirmation of the fact that Jesus taught and acted with authority. He communicated the love and mercy of God in a sign that spoke more loudly than words. Jesus did not only grant the leper's request, he also demonstrated the personal love, compassion, and tenderness of God in his physical approach and touch of the leper. Jesus showed the leper compassion and tender kindness by making the leper feel accepted by society.

In modern times, the lepers are all those marginalized by society including people such as foreigners, people of a different color or cultures or religions, drug addicts, homeless, etc.

May we, like Jesus Christ, reach out to others with compassionate care and kindness to those who have been rejected mistreated, isolated, and lonely. May we all accept our special responsibility as agents of healing and accept them fully. Nothing should prevent us from doing what Jesus Christ would have done.

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Parochial Vicar