

01.11.2019 – Friday after Epiphany – Homily

I Jn 5:5-13 Lk 5:12-16

Making choices is something that we do every day. We try to choose well, to make the best choice possible, the choice that the Lord would want us to make. We do not always succeed in choosing well, in that sense. In the gospel reading, a leper comes up to Jesus and says, **‘If you want to – if you choose – you can cure me’**. The leper could not presume that Jesus would want to heal him, because lepers were not supposed to approach others; they were to keep out of the way, for fear they would contaminate others.

However, in reply, Jesus said to him, **‘Of course I want to! Be cured’**. Jesus chose to do what nobody else would have chosen to do; he reached out and touched the leper and his leprosy was healed. In the gospels, Jesus is consistently portrayed as choosing to make contact with those who are broken in body, mind or spirit, and who are not part of the mainstream. The risen Lord continues to connect with each of us in our own brokenness; he wants to be a healing and life-giving presence in our lives. He asks us to be the same for each other, to choose as he chooses, to want what he wants.

There can be times in our own lives when like the leper, we might wonder if the Lord really wants to help us. We wonder if we are significant enough for the Lord to give us his personal attention and become involved with our lives. If we feel like that, the Lord would say to us what he says to the leper who approached Jesus with full Faith in today’s gospel reading, **‘Of course, I want to’**. When we approach the Lord with the same urgency as the leper, he will not fail to respond to us in a life-giving way. In the words of the first letter of Saint John, this morning’s first reading, **‘anyone who has the Son has life’**.

As we draw close to the conclusion of the Christmas season with the coming celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, we should be reminded

that Christ in Baptism has touched us all. This “touch” continues throughout our lives. It is a touch that sanctifies and transforms. It is a touch that heals and consoles. Let yourself experience Jesus’ mercy by coming to Him with humility as you acknowledge your need for grace. Do not be afraid to abandon yourself before Him, knowing for certain that He will not hesitate for a moment to reach out, touch you and offer you the abundance of His mercy.

Let us pray:

Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean. If you wish, you can heal me, forgive me, strengthen me and love me. I thank you in advance because I know that you do desire and choose to bless me in these and in every other way that I need. Thank You for Your mercy and grace and thank You for accepting me in my weakness. I love you, my Lord, and I do choose to fall down prostrate as the Magi, and Leaper did before you in love and adoration. **Jesus, I trust in you.**