

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Gospel text (Lk 17:11-19): As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed.

And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

"Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!"

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Today, once again, we may substantiate how our attitude of faith may stir up Jesus Christ's heart. The fact is that some lepers, overcoming the social dislike they all suffered, and quite boldly too, came to meet Jesus and —we could say in quotation marks— coerced Him with their trustworthy petition: "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" (Lk 17:13).

Jesus' reaction is immediate and sudden: "Go show yourselves to the priests" (Lk 17:14). He, who is the Lord, shows His power, for "as they were going they were cleansed" (Lk 17:14).

This attests that the measure of Christ's miracles is, precisely, the measure of our

faith and confidence in God. What else are we to do —poor creatures— in front of God, but trust Him? But with an operative faith, that forces us to abide by God's wishes. A minimum of common sense will suffice to understand that “nothing is too difficult to believe in if referring to He, whom nothing is too difficult for” (Cardinal J. H. Newman). If we do not see more miracles it is because we do not really ‘obligate’ our Lord, lacking confidence and obedience to Him. As St. John Chrysostom said, “little faith can achieve a lot.”

And, a flood of joy and gratitude crowned that faith in God when, “one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him” (Lk 17:15-16).

But..., what a shame! Out of ten benefiting from that great miracle, only one came back. How ungrateful we are when we so easily forget that all we have comes from God and that we owe everything to Him! Let us resolve to oblige him from now on while demonstrating our gratitude and faith in Him.

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

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“Let us follow after Christ and pray to the Father together with him. Let us not emulate Judas by departing from Christ, after partaking of his favors and dining excellently with him.” (Saint Thomas More)

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“Our God is a God who is approaching us. A God who is close. A God who started walking with His people and then became one of them, in Jesus Christ, to become close. With that closeness that gave encouragement to those ten lepers to ask Him to clean them up... No one wanted to miss that closeness.”

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“Every joy and suffering, every event and need can become the matter for thanksgiving which, sharing in that of Christ, should fill one's whole life: "Give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thess 5:18)” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2648)