

Friday of week 12 2020
Reflection by Fr Euloge Kasine aa

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ I invite you to meditate with me on the healing hand of God. God's word contains a power that creates and renews. To renew and transform a leper, Jesus touched him and said words which brought healing. "Of course, I want to! Be cured!" At these words the leper was healed. The leper experienced the healing hand of God in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

For all the times we failed to give hand to the needy; for all the times our words did not heal but instead caused troubles and brought anger and disorder in people's lives, we confess and say: Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.

Meditation: Kings 25:1-12; Matthew 8: 1-4

The healing hand of God

Before receiving the Holy Communion, we always say "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." We believe that God's word has the power to transform us and heal us from various diseases; physical and spiritual as well.

Jesus of Nazareth had the power to heal. When we read the Bible, we find verses where Jesus healed by only a word from his mouth and in other verses, he used words and touched the sick so that they may recover their health. In today's gospel, Jesus stretched out his hand and said words which brought healing to a leper.

I would like to understand a leper here as a symbol of all those people who are marginalised in our societies; people who are left to their own fate and nobody cares about them. In our societies, there are people who are in need of our hands or our words so that they may discover and appreciate the wonder of their beings.

In our societies, there are people who have lost hope and start growing in them hatred and violence of all sorts. There are people who harm others or harm themselves because of feeling that they have been marginalised or neglected in a certain sense.

To be of Christ, that is to be a Christian, means to be like Christ whose words and deeds brought consolation and healing to people. Through the leper in today's gospel, I see the needy saying to those who have been blessed in one way or another, "If you want to, you can help us find means and ways for a better life."

St Paul wrote to the Romans the following: "We who are strong ought to bear with the shortcomings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbour for his good, to build him up" (Romans 15: 1-2). We need systems in our societies which will build the needy up.

I believe that people today can still experience the healing hand of God through our hands. We will make the needy feel the healing hand of God not only by providing foods but also by fighting any unfair system which makes the poor poorer and the rich richer. I think it is a noble task to fight for the establishment of a fair system which will build the needy up.

We need a system which will help people afford for their basic needs. We need a system which will make an end to discrimination; we need a system which will encourage brotherhood and sisterhood. We need a system in which people will accept each other as brothers and sisters.

After the leper was healed, Jesus asked him to go and show himself to the priest and make the offering prescribed by Moses, as evidence for them. The leper was to be welcomed in his society; the leper was asked to make an offering. I think that if we heal our unfair systems, people will be able to afford for their basic needs. A good and fair system in a society can save many. Can we cure the needy? Can we build the needy up? Yes, we can build the needy up if we cure unfair systems found in our societies.