

Reflection Friday Week 1 Year 1 2023

One of the great faculties with which we have been blessed is the ability to listen and to listen is a way that demands a response from us. Hebrews sees this kind of listening as leading to faith. Listening was a major request in the preparation of the Synod of the Laity which will take place later this year. In the curing of the paralytic, those who really listened to Jesus saw the power of God at work in him. Those who were unable to listen only wanted to find fault with Jesus and in what he was doing. Today Jesus introduces the importance of reconciliation and forgiveness that not only leads to spiritual healing but also to physical healing.

Malcolm Guite:

Begin the song exactly where you are
for where you are contains where you have been
and holds the vision of your final sphere
and do not fear the memory of sin;
there is a light that heals, and, where it falls,
transfigures and redeems the darkest stain
into translucent colour. Loose the veils
and draw the curtains back, unbar the doors,
of that dread threshold where your spirit fails,
the hopeless gate that holds in all the fears
that haunt your shadowed city, fling it wide
and open to the light that finds and fares
through the dark pathways where you run and hide,
through all the alleys of your riddled heart,
as pierced and open as His wounded side.
Open the map to Him and make a start,
and down the dizzy spirals, through the dark
his light will go before you, let Him chart
and name and heal. Expose the hidden ache
to him, the stinging fires and smoke that blind
your judgement, carry you away, the mirk
and muted gloom in which you cannot find
the love that you once thought worth dying for.
Call Him to all you cannot call to mind
he comes to harrow Hell and now to your
well-guarded fortress let His love descend.
The icy ego at your frozen core
can hear His call at last. *Will you respond?*

A nun gave little Mary a long talk on sin, prayer, and forgiveness. When she finished the lesson, she asked little Mary, "*What do we have to do before we ask the Lord for*

forgiveness?"

Little Mary Confidently said, "***Sin!!***"