

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 28th SUNDAY YEAR-C-2025

GRATITUDE:

The word Leprosy **was and still is a terrifying** word among all people.inspite of the modern technology and medical investigationS and research,there is still a lot of fear when the word Leprosy is mentioned.In the recent time we have been faced with challenging diseases which has brought **fear,panic.anxiety and threat in humanity**.some of these diseases are like **HIV/AIDS,Ebola cancer,anthrax and the current Covid-19**(*they are a great threat to humanity.*

Persons with leprosy were considered **as outcast,sinners hence segreted from the public so as to avoid passing the disease to others**.Having leprosy is like being contemned,they lived in isolation in the bush and depended on the well being of family and friends.They couldn't associate or participate in any public function whether **social or even religious**.Always they to shout unclean,unclean to announce their presence in the neighborhood. This caused a lot of anxiety,**humiliation,stress and luck of human dignity and respect** thus bringing to these sick people **trauma,emotional,psychological and spiritual imbalance**.Is this not happening in our present day society when we hear one has **hiv/aids or even corona victims**?How can we address these issues of isolations? Can we learn from Christ himself? Acceptance and care!Do we ever thank the Lord of the gift of good health both physical and mental?

Our readings today especially the first reading(kings 15:14-17) we meet the commmander of Syrian Army who was infected with the

leprosy and in the gospel we find ten lepers with leprosy in Israel. Their different reactions can be seen after being cured we have a great lesson to learn from the reactions. Both cases were not instance cure, there was a process. Naaman despite the fact that he was a well placed personality in the society, he had to obey the man of God the prophet to go and **bath seven times** in River Jordan. After this he was cured. The ten lepers United together by the same disease didn't care whether Jew or samaritan they were living together as a community what mattered for them was to be cured. They approached Dr. Jesus and cried out to him to be made clean. They shouted and cried together **Jesus master have pity on us (Lk 17:1-13) Jesus-listen to their cry he gave them prescription, he send them to the priest to give them clean bill of health certifying their cure.** on the way they were cured, one of them a Samaritan was so much touched and returned to **give thanks to God(17-18)** Naaman too a foreigner had done the same by returning to the man of God and appreciate. Jesus expressed his Surprise that only one among the ten returned to give thanks who happens to be a foreigner. **were not cured, what about the nine! Do we ever appreciate the Lord for many things he has done to us? Good health, parents, children, work, education, faith family, vocation, teachers and friends?** Are we like the Samaritan, Naaman or the nine?

Note the fact of curing is a process hence it is teaching us how to be **patience, tolerance, humility and above all faithfulness.** It is too teaching us on **gratitude and thanksgiving.**

Do we treat others like lepers or we appreciate them? How do treat those with **special needs, the Vulnerable, immigrants, political**

opponents people of other religion or cultures,sexual deviants.The worst leprosy in our time is to be rejected and not to belong anywhere.We all need to be directed to the man of God for cure.We all need to be shown our river Jordan to bath for cure.We all need a certificate of clean bill of spiritual health certified by a compassioned loving man of God. CAN YOU BE THAT PERSON?

We must get rid of all,leprosy of hatred,pride,unkindness and take all bitterness we might hold to River Jordan to be CLEANSED.