

XIV TRINITY 2018

SERMON – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

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Please and **thank you**...simple but powerful words in the English language...or for that matter in any language. **Please** and **thank you**.

We say **please** when we ask for something...we say **thank you** when we get what we asked for...or at least we should. Do we sometimes forget to say **thank you**?

Case in point...ten men with a skin condition thought to be leprosy come to Jesus for help. We don't know for certain if what the ten men had was Hansen's disease. Any visible skin condition was suspect...it could be contagious...so the men kept their distance.

"**Please** help us", the ten men shouted, "Make us well again". Jesus doesn't say to the men he will heal them or make any attempt to touch them...he tells them to go and see the priests in the Temple. Along the way all ten men were all healed.

Jesus told the men to do exactly what the Book of Leviticus instructed them to do. Only a priest could certify the ten men with a skin condition were clear of any sign of that condition. With their certifications in hand...they could now rejoin society.

Why did only one of the men return to Jesus and say **thank you**? The Gospel tells us he was a Samaritan...like our hero the Good Samaritan in last week's Gospel...he did the right thing...he came back to Jesus. He was so overcome with emotion he fell down at Jesus' feet and cried and thanked God for healing him.

What about the other nine men? Jesus and his disciples are traveling in Samaria but the other nine men are not Samaritans...they are Jews...who like the Samaritan are cut off from society because of their skin condition.

The Gospel shows us Jesus always healed people who asked for his help regardless of their ethnic background or social status. He never said no to anyone who asked for his help. He reached out to marginalized and disenfranchised sick people and gave them hope.

In the Collect we ask God to **please** make the gifts of Faith, Hope and Love stronger in our hearts so we not only know to do the right thing...we carry through with what is right and pleasing to him. Saint Paul tells us to let the Holy Spirit direct our lives so the gifts we ask God to increase in our hearts manifest themselves in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.

Jesus shows us how much the Father loves us through his own acts of love and compassion. He cares about our physical and spiritual health and everything we do in our daily lives whether it's work, school, church, or time away from our hectic lives to get refreshed.

We're most likely to appeal to God's compassion and mercy and ask for his help when things aren't going well or we're sick or just having a bad day..."Dear God...**please** take care of this and make everything well again." There is no such thing as a prayer unanswered...sometimes we do have to be patient when we don't get an answer right away...or it isn't the answer we expected.

Let's also remember to thank God when things are going well. Those are the times we are most likely to take God for granted. He knows everything about us and he knows what we need. The simple act of saying **thank you** to God for his many blessings in our lives helps us understand the deep relationship we have with him: He is our Father and we are his children.

The Samaritan is our hero because he has faith; he trusts in God and believes Jesus has the power to make him well. He is our hero because he shows he loves God. He is our hero because his hope is strong. He is our hero because he acts the way we are supposed to act...he came back to thank Jesus...the source of his healing.

We're supposed to ask God for help and healing. **Please** is a good way to start our prayer. Let's not forget to say **thank you**. It's the right thing to do!

