

If you are willing

Scripture Reading: Matthew 8:1-4

Each day we pray regarding so many things. We pray for healing, for a house, for food and concerning all our needs. In today's scripture portion we read about a leper. In the times of the New Testament, the lepers were not allowed to live in the society. When they see others, they have to shout "defiled!" They are completely forsaken by all their relatives, friends and neighbors. They lived in such a pathetic situation. They had a lonely living outside the society. We never know if they had their needs met. How could've they received their food and clothing. What will we do if we had such a life filled with distress? Surely we would've questioned God for the pain and struggle we were going through.

But this leper, he comes and worships the Lord. We can see his humility here. The cruelty of his sickness did not make him angry but rather made him humble. He said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Even when going through such an agony, he never said "Lord heal me", but rather gave himself to the will of God saying, "If you are willing". Even in the toughest times of life we have to surrender to do the will of God. God desires to cleanse us. He healed the leper saying, "I am willing, be clean!" God is filled with compassion. He hears the humble prayers of his people.

Jesus who wrought the miracle commanded the person not to tell it to anyone. Why? He never desired fame. He always desired to glorify God and do good to people. Do you have a humble heart? What is our attitude in time of sickness, pain and distress? Do we desire to be praised by others? Or do we desire to follow the commandments of God?

Questions:

1. What was the prayer of the leper?
2. How should we pray?
3. What did Jesus desire to do?