



FEBRUARY 15, 2015

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



LEVITICUS 13:1-2, 44-46

PSALM 32:1-2, 5, 11

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-11:1

MARK 1:40-45

REFLECTION

Both in Jesus's time and way back before him in the time of Moses, lepers were forced by law to live apart from society, ostracized. The laws and customs were practical. They helped reduce the spread of a disease that had horrific long-term results and had no cure. The effect on the sick person was the loss of family, friends, livelihood, and life. It was devastating. Have you ever been on the outside? Probably not from leprosy. Sometimes friends will ostracize each other after a disagreement. Or after breaking up with someone, one person or the other gets shut out of the group or keeps the friends leaving the other on the outside. Sometimes we end up on the outside when we've done something wrong and withdraw on our own. It's hard to get back in and we need help. In the Gospel, the leper crosses boundaries to ask Jesus for help and Jesus crosses boundaries to help him. The leper has confidence in Jesus's ability to heal him and Jesus reaches out to him in pity and love.



Listen to the song "Fix You" by Coldplay. How is it like the healing Jesus offers in today's Gospel?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY9b6jgbNyc

ACTION

Reach out to someone who has been pushed to the outside in your family or group of friends. Be the one to take the first courageous step.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- When have you experienced the kind of healing that restored not only health or wholeness but also relationships and community?
- In the Second Reading, Paul talks about how he does his best to live a life of holiness by imitating Christ. In what ways do you imitate Christ? If your list is short, find one habit to develop to increase your imitation of Christ.