

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/9/2022)

- *Excerpt from the archives of Msgr. John J. Gilchrist October 11, 1998*

We have today two stories. Both involve leprosy. Both involve non-Jews. And both result in miracles of healing

The first is the story of a powerful general in Syria. His name is Naaman. He is stricken with leprosy. He is in despair because the illness is incurable. Yet, when an Israelite slave girl tells him that there is a prophet in Israel who can cure him, the general starts out with gifts and hope and travels to visit Elisha. After washing himself in the Jordan River seven times as Elisha had suggested, the Syrian, a pagan, was cleansed. He was cleansed because he performed an act of faith. The water did not purify him. The Lord cleansed him because of his trust in God. The stranger became a true believer and let everyone know of his gratitude.

In the Gospel, we find Jesus, still on his way to Jerusalem, meeting ten lepers, nine of them were Jews and one was a Samaritan. Although the two groups did not mix, they formed a community because of their common illness. Jesus sent them to see the priests because only the priests could declare a person clean and worthy to rejoin their communities. These men believed in

Jesus. They became clean as they traveled to Jerusalem. The nine were so overjoyed that they just kept going, first to the priests and then to their homes. Only the Samaritan, like the Syrian, showed his gratitude by coming back to Jesus.

Isn't it true, that we are often ungrateful to God? We have so much, yet poor people around the world praise God for the little they have. Our leprosy is sin. It is a sickness of the soul. When we are healed of sin, we, like the Samaritan and Syrian, should give praise to God. Purity of soul is far more important than physical well being.

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- *摘自 John J. Gilchrist 蒙席案卷, 1998 年 10 月 11 日*

今天有两个故事。两者均涉及到痲病，均与非犹太人有关，并且两故事都彰显了治愈的神迹。

第一个是有关叙利亚一个颇有势力大将军的故事。他的名字叫纳阿曼。他染上痲病。因为这个病症不能治愈，这让他深陷绝望。当他家的一个以色列奴婢告诉他以色列有一位先知可以治愈他时，大将军立刻满怀希望，带上礼物，风尘仆仆上路去见先知厄里叟。他听从厄里叟的建议，在约但河水里浸洗七次后，这个非犹太教徒的叙利亚人被洁净治愈了。他被治愈是因为他行使了他信仰上应做的事。

不是河水让他洁净，而是因着他相信天主而得到净化治愈。这个外邦人成为真正信仰天主的人，并向每个人展示了他对天主的感恩之情。

在福音中，我们发现耶稣在去耶路撒冷的路上，遇到十个患癞病的人，九个是犹太人，一个是撒玛黎雅人。虽然犹太人及撒玛黎雅人并没有混居，但因为这十人患有同样的病，他们组成了一个社区。耶稣让他们去见司祭，因为只有司祭才能宣告一个人是否已洁净，是否可以重归他们先前的社区。这十个生癞病的男性相信了耶稣，在他们去耶路撒冷的路上得到洁净痊愈。那九个犹太人是如此高兴，一路前行，先去见司祭，然后就各自回了自己的家。只有那个撒玛黎雅人，如同叙利亚将军那样，返回来向耶稣表达了感激之情。

我们经常没有对天主表达感谢，这难道不是真的吗？我们如此富足，但世界上有众多穷人却为他们少的可怜的拥有而赞美主。我们的癞病就是我们的罪，是属于灵魂上的病。当我们从我们的罪中得到洁净治愈时，我们应该像撒玛黎雅人和叙利亚大将军那样赞美天主。灵魂的洁净远比身体健康重要的多。