

Commentary on the Readings for October 9, 2022

The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today the readings are about **Faith** and its companion **Patience**. Next Sunday the readings are about **Faith** and putting that faith into action. This is what we call **Trust**. Sometimes God might test us by asking us to step out of our comfort zone and do something to prove our faith as in the First Reading and again in the Gospel. Do you know the difference between Faith and Trust?

In the **First Reading**, from the **Second Book of Kings (5:14-17)**, Naaman, a Syrian man of importance, journeys to Israel to be healed by the Prophet Elisha. He has faith. Although weak, it is enough that Elisha can heal him of leprosy; but he is unwilling to do something distasteful in order to obtain the healing. His pride gets in the way. Only the persuasion of a servant gets Naaman to change his mind and perform the simple task that leads to the healing. Pride can be an obstacle to our ability to step out in faith to accomplish something that God wants us to do. We must be on guard against this obstacle and pray for the strength to overcome it.

The **Responsorial Psalm** is **(98:1-4)**. The psalmist picks up the theme of God wishing to reveal Himself to the people of all nations and races. He declares that "**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God.**" We, too, must understand that Salvation is available to people of all faiths and backgrounds, not just Christians or Catholics.

The **Second Reading** is from **St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy (2:8-13)**. This is a continuation of the readings for last Sunday where Paul is encouraging Timothy to be patient and to trust in the Lord Jesus to make things right. In the readings for today, Paul continues this line of advice because of its importance to our journey toward salvation. We should listen carefully to the advice that Paul gives. His advice is timeless.

The **Gospel Reading** is taken from the **Gospel of Luke (17:11-19)**. In the Readings for today, we have a good example of our theme of "**putting our faith into action.**" Here we have ten men coming to Jesus and asking for healing from leprosy which, in biblical times, was a scourge of great proportions. Jesus instructs them to do what was prescribed by Moses; that is to "show yourself to the priests" of the temple. Some of these ten men probably wandered off because they didn't believe Jesus. Some may have done what they were told and then rejoiced; but only one came back to thank God in Jesus for his healing. Jesus assures him that "**His faith has saved him.**"

The act of returning to give Thanks showed that his faith was in action. Often we are asked to demonstrate our faith by some simple act which might involve other people. It is not always the act itself that God wants, but our willingness to fulfill what is being asked of us. This is what **Trust** is, the action taken to put our **Faith** into operation. Look at it this way: **Faith** is the relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ, the vertical beam of the cross. **Trust** is putting that faith into some action that affects or involves others, the horizontal beam of the cross. St. James tells us that "one without the other is no faith at all." (See James 2:17) So our recommendation for this week's Prayer Time is the question: "**Am I putting my faith into action?**" Something to think about during your Prayer Time this week! **MFB**