



Sixth Sunday Of The Year

Rejection

Introduction

Leprosy is a terrible disease, though it is almost unknown in the western world. But it still concerns us for it is a symbol of sin. We are all tainted with the leprosy of sin. Christ wasn't afraid to reach out and touch lepers. He still reaches out to us, to heal in us the wounds of sin. Let us not be afraid to approach him. We need his healing touch.

First Reading (Leviticus 13:1-2, 45-46)

This describes how lepers were considered ritually unclean and were compelled to live apart from the community.

Second Reading (1 Cor 10:31-11:1)

St Paul urges us never to do anything offensive to anyone.

Gospel (Mark 1:40-45)

This tells how Jesus cured a leper by touching him.

Prayer Of The Faithful

God gave us heart, not of stone, but of flesh. Let us pray that he may deliver us from hardness of heart, and help us to accept others as he accepts us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Christian community: that it may be warm and caring towards the rejects of the society. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the world and all humankind: that God may bind the human family in ties of love, friendship, and mutual acceptance. Lord, hear us..

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all those who feel rejected and unwanted: that they may realize that even if people reject them God never does. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



That we may realize how the quality of our presence, of our looks and words, affects others, bringing them happiness or misery, life or death. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

Each of us to some extent
has felt the pain of rejection.
Rejection makes us feel that we are worthless.
It makes us want to shrivel up
or even openly rebel.
It is like a shower of hail
falling on tender young flowers.

Each of us longs to be accepted,
accepted for what we are.
When someone accepts us they give us
the feeling that we are worthwhile.
Acceptance means that we are free to be ourselves.
Even though there is a need for growth and change
we are not being forced.

It is the love and acceptance of others
that makes me unique person that I am.
When I am accepted only for work I do,
then I am not unique,
for someone else can do the same work
perhaps better than even I can.
But when I am accepted for what I am,
then I become unique irreplaceable,
and I can blossom to my full potential.

This is how Christ accepts us.