

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS ON ANOINTING



Reflection One

Scripture Reading

"One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in a Jewish meeting place, and a woman was there who had been crippled by an evil spirit for eighteen years. She was completely bent over and could not straighten up. When Jesus saw the woman, he called her over and said, "You are now well." He placed his hands on her and right away she stood up and praised God." (Luke 13:10-17)

Reflection

One day my Dad returned from morning Mass and was quietly sitting at the kitchen table. I noticed that he was more quiet than usual and asked him what he was pondering. He told me that he wondered if God would have time to answer his prayers when so many people around him seemed to have such bigger problems and challenges. He humbly admitted that he seldom asked God for anything because he was so aware of the many needs that others had that were greater than his own. In this Gospel story of Jesus healing the crippled woman it clearly highlights Jesus taking the initiative to reach out and heal her. How great is our God who knows us and heals us and answers our prayers even when we ourselves are shy to present them to him.

Prayer

Abundant God, you created us and know our needs even when we are unable to

speak them. Heal us when we need healing, and help us to journey in faith as we place our needs and the needs of others into your hands. Amen

Reflection Two

Scripture Reading

"The next time that Jesus went into the meeting place a man with a crippled hand was there. The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of doing something wrong and they kept watching to see if Jesus would heal him on the Sabbath.

"Jesus told the man to stand up where everyone could see him. Then he asked, 'On the Sabbath should we do good deeds or evil deeds? Should we save someone's life or destroy it?' But no one said a word. Jesus was angry as he looked around at the people. Yet he felt sorry for them because they were so stubborn. Then he told the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He did, and his bad hand was healed." (Mark 3:1-5)

Reflection

Jesus in this Gospel story shows us what our priorities in life need to be. The Pharisees wanted Jesus to be put in a difficult position: obey the law or help someone that needed healing. Jesus clearly shows us what is most important: putting the needs of other first.

Prayer

Generous God, you challenge us to make choices based on love and not on rules and regulations. Help us to place the needs of others first, that we may work together to heal the world. Amen.

Reflection Three

Scripture Reading

"The Lord chose some people to be doctors, so honor them well for helping others get well. God most high gave them the ability to heal and they are rewarded by the king." (Sirach 38:1-2)

Reflection

In this Scripture passage it is not just doctors we would commend today but all who so generously share their time, energy, and gifts to journey with those who are ill: nurses, hospital chaplains, hospice workers, home care assistants, doctors and surgeons, all who work to help those who are sick.

Prayer

Life-giving God, we pray today for all who journey with those who are sick. Bless them with the courage and patience they need to share your compassionate love with all those whom they serve. Amen.

Reflection Four

Scripture Reading

"Jesus was still teaching, when four men came up carrying a crippled man on a mat. But because of the crowd, they could not get him to Jesus. So they made a hole in the roof above him and let the man down in front of everyone. When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the crippled man, 'My friend, your sins are forgiven.'" Mark 2:2-5

Reflection

Four faithful friends were determined in this passage from Mark's Gospel to help their friend reach Jesus. Through extraordinary effort and perseverance they presented their friend to Jesus who quickly healed him and affirmed them for their faith. Faithful friends leading their friend to Jesus. Are we faithful friends helping others to reach Jesus?

Prayer

Faithful God, bless us with friends who persevere in helping us to reach your Son Jesus. Help us to be faithful in helping others to reach Jesus too so that they may receive the healing they need. Amen.

Reflection Five

Scripture Reading

"Students, if you get sick, quickly pray to the Lord, and you will be healed." (Sirach 38:9)

Reflection

"Quickly pray." What does it mean to quickly pray? Does it raise the question of who we turn first in a time of need? Does it raise the question of what we do in moments of illness and challenge? Sirach is challenging us to turn to God as our first response when we are not well.

Prayer

Eternal God, you know our needs even before we name them. Help us to breathe in your loving presence, to rest in your constant care and support for us. Amen.

Reflection Six

Scripture Reading

"I love you, Lord! You answered my prayers. You paid attention to me, and so I will pray to you as long as I live." (Psalm 116:1-4)

Reflection

How can we repay the Lord for all his goodness to us? A simple but challenging response: love God and continue to be in relationship with God through prayer.

Prayer

Gracious God, you created us in love and sustain us in love. Challenge us to share your love with others so that all may know of your life-giving goodness. Amen.

Reflection Seven

Scripture Reading

"From there, Jesus went along Lake Galilee. Then he climbed a hill and sat down. Large crowds came and brought many people who were crippled or blind or lame and unable to talk. They placed them, and many others, in front of Jesus, and he healed them all. Everyone was amazed at what they saw and heard. People who had never spoken could now

speak. The lame were healed, the cripple could walk, and the blind were able to see. Everyone was praising the God of Israel." (Matthew 15:29-31)

Reflection

Jesus continues his ministry of healing in today's world. Are our hearts and minds open to see the power of his touch in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of healing in our lives and in the lives of those around us? Do we ever stop and pause in wonder and amazement at what we see Jesus do?

Prayer

Awesome God, you continue to surprise us in the healing moments of our lives and in the lives of others. Help us to be healers with you and Jesus, and to remain awe-filled at the power of your healing love. Amen.

