

6 Sunday B
Mark 1:40-45

St. John Paul II

2018
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

We sing this song occasionally here at St. John Paul II

Open my Eyes Lord, help me to see your face...

Open my eyes Lord, help me to see.

Open my ears Lord, help me to hear your voice

Open my ears Lord, help me to hear.

Open my heart Lord, help me to love like you

Open my heart Lord, help me to love.

That simple song becomes an inherently challenging song
in light of our readings today.

You see, we sing that song occasionally, but do we really mean it?

Do we really want to see and hear and love like Jesus?

If we do then today's Gospel is quite a challenge for us.

Because what happens in today's Gospel shows the two aspects,
The two parts of Jesus' ministry.

The first is that Jesus touched the untouchable

St. Mark tells us that when the leper approached Jesus,

Jesus was moved with pity,

another translation—(perhaps a better translation)

says Jesus was moved with compassion for the leper.

We hear in Leviticus, our first reading, that lepers are cut off/cast out
of the community.

They are the ones most people don't want to deal with...

So if we truly want to see and hear and love like Jesus,

Can we do so without reaching out to the untouchables of our day,

The people most others don't want to deal with?

The mentally ill, the homeless, the addicted, the immigrant, the deformed,

The handicapped, the whatever....

And each time we see them, rooting through the garbage, having an outburst,
standing at the Interstate exit ramp...

We have to ask ourselves, do we want to see and hear and love like Jesus?

Because Jesus in our gospel today was moved with compassion for the leper.

And he touched him...he entered his world.

Open our eyes Lord, Open our ears Lord, Open our Hearts Lord...

Are you sure?

The second aspect of Jesus' ministry was actually part of last week's reading which is the few verses we find before today's story...

I added it again this week because it is an essential element to the story.

Jesus says his purpose is not only to heal

But also to preach the Gospel...to tell the Good news.

If we want to see and hear and feel like Jesus we must commit ourselves to preach the gospel too.

Which begs the question—

when was the last time you shared your faith with someone?

When was the last time

you told anyone how important God is to you in your life?

David Wells, who will be presenting our mission later this spring,

tells the story of the woman who worked in a downtown area of a major city.

Each day at lunch time she would walk past a homeless man

who sat outside her building and she would always give him some change or a dollar bill.

But one day she felt convicted to do more....

and so as she handed him the money she said,

“I need to tell you why I do this.

And I'm not telling you this to make you feel bad,

or to make you believe what I believe....

I just need to tell you that I do this because God loves me

and God has told me to love you.”

That's seeing and hearing and loving and preaching like Jesus

Open my Eyes Lord, help me to see your face...

Open my eyes lord help me to see.

Open my ears Lord, help me to hear your voice

Open my ears Lord, help me to hear.

Open my heart Lord, help me to love like you

Open my heart Lord, help me to love.

It's a challenging song...if you really believe it.

It's a challenging song...if you choose to live it.