

[72] **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B**

FIRST READING

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 10:31 -- 11:1

Brothers and sisters:

When you eat or drink or do anything else,
always do it to honor God.

Don't cause problems for Jews or Greeks
or anyone else who belongs to God's church.

I always try to please others instead of myself,
in the hope that many of them will be saved.
You must follow my example,
as I follow the example of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

32:1, 5ab, 11

R. (7a) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble.

Our God, you bless everyone
whose sins you forgive and wipe away.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble.

So I confessed my sins
and told them all to you.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble.

And so your good people
should celebrate and shout.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble.

ALLELUIA

Luke 7:16

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

The leprosy left him, and he was cured.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

1:40-45

A man with leprosy came to Jesus and kneeled down.
He begged, "You have the power to make me well,
if only you wanted to."

Jesus felt sorry for the man.
So he put his hand on him and said, "I want to!
Now you are well."
At once the man's leprosy disappeared,
and he was well.

After Jesus strictly warned the man,
he sent him on his way.
He said, "Don't tell anyone about this.
Just go and show the priest that you are well.
Then take a gift to the temple as Moses commanded,
and everyone will know that you have been healed."

The man talked about it so much and told so many people,
that Jesus could no longer go openly into a town.
He had to stay away from the towns,
but people still came to him from everywhere.

The gospel of the Lord.



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Prayer:
 Our friend, Jesus,
 Please help us to remember that we, too, can help heal others by our words and actions.
 In your name we pray,
 Amen

Readings:
 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
 Psalm 32:1, 5ab, 11
 Mark 1:40-45

Reflection:
 What do Jesus' miracles teach us about God? They teach us that God loves ALL of us and wants to help EVERYONE.

Lepers were the outcasts, the misfits in Jesus' time yet Jesus still helped the man in today's gospel. Jesus didn't care if someone was part of the "in" crowd. He went to Zacchaeus' house for dinner; he hung out with tax collectors as well as Mary Magdalene and other women. Jesus helped and loved everyone.

Valentine's Day is Tuesday. According to an old legend, St. Valentine was a Roman priest who was put into jail because he was a Christian. While he was in prison waiting to be executed, St. Valentine sent messages of love and friendship to many people. His messages became known as Valentines. The legend tells us that he was beheaded on February 14th. That is why we send messages to those we love on that day.

When Jesus healed people he talked to them and he touched them. He knew that having someone to talk to and feeling another person's touch was very important. He also knew how important it was to have someone say nice things to you, no matter who you are.

Activity: The Power of Positive Talk

1. Split the children into groups of 2.
2. Have 1 child in each group hold one arm out to the side. Have the other child try to push it down. Then take a short break.
3. Have the child that is pushing the arm down, say negative things such as, "I don't like your hair. You can't play basketball very well; your smile is crooked..." Tell them that the statements don't need to be true; they just need to be not nice. Make sure, though that they don't say things that are mean and will hurt the other kid's feelings. As they are saying the negative things have them try to push the other kid's arm down again. (It should be very easy to push it down, but don't tell them that). Then take a short break.
4. Have the child that is pushing the arm down, say positive things such as, "You are fun to play with. I like your smile. You have pretty hair." While they are saying the positive things they should try to push the other child's arm down again. (It should be much harder to push again.)

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5. Have the children switch roles.
6. Allow them to try it again if they want.

Discussion:

1. What happened?
2. Did hearing certain things effect how strong you were?
The children should respond that when negative things were being said to them it was harder to hold up their arm. When positive comments were said they were stronger. Our words can affect others. Just like Jesus, we should use our words and actions to bring love and healing to others.
3. What do you think happens to people when others are constantly saying negative things to them?

For the older kids:

Think about some of the people who are not part of the "in" crowd at school. How are they treated? Do they have many friends? How do you think they feel when they don't get asked to play kickball at recess? What can you do to make sure everyone feels accepted, loved and included?