

## Twenty-Eighth Sunday YC 9 September 2022. Do not take gratitude for granted

Last week we read from the gospel of Luke, where Jesus's disciples said, "increase our faith." This statement made us understand that faith is vital in our earthly journey; with confidence, our success is guaranteed. Today we see in our first reading how Naaman displayed faith, a Syrian pagan army full of doubt but later realized that there is a God in Israel who is more significant than all physicians. When Elisha sent a message to him that he should go and wash seven times in the Jordan river, Naaman expressed somewhat shock because there are many bigger rivers in Israel than River Jordan; how can a Prophet say this? And his attention was called, 'do whatever the prophet ask you to do,' and Naaman kept aside his pride and employed 'Faith' by going to wash at the prophet's command. We are told, "His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean of his leprosy". This brought us to the theme: **Do not take gratitude for granted**. Naaman who received healing from God, remembered to offer thanksgiving in appreciation for what God has done concerning his miserable life. Today's psalmist said, sing to the lord a new song for he has done wondrous deeds. in the gospel acclamation: In all circumstances, give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

In the gospel reading of today, we were told that ten lepers walked up to Jesus to be cured by him. When Jesus asked them to meet the chief priest, they immediately discovered after a few miles away, that their problem, the leprosy have left them, and many of them, filled with bursting excitement, forgot to return to Jesus and appreciate him for such great healing. It was only the Samaritan among them, who thought it wise to go back to Jesus, and thank him. At this, Jesus, said to him, your faith and gratitude have saved you. Thus, the Samaritan not only received bodily healing, but he also got a spiritual cleansing as well and as such, he found favor and good standing with God.

God is not just a solution provider that we run to in prayer whenever we have difficulties. His primary interest is the salvation of our souls. When we pray, it is important that we complete the circle, by returning after he has granted our intentions, to say 'Thank You' to him. Most of us remember to pray before traveling, but not many of us remember to thank God once we arrived safely to our destinations. We pray before going out for our business for the day, but we don't return thanks when we come back at evening. Many of us prayed for admission, for jobs, for husband, wives, for healing, for protection, and for success.

The question is, after God granted us these petitions, how many of us took out time to dedicate the same or a little energy to returning thanks to God, just like we did when we were praying for the above intentions, courtesy demand we return thanks for favors received. It's a sin against charity when we fail to acknowledge the benevolent of God. We are all guilty of this sin. Very often we are being attended we'll by doctors / nurses and care by our loved ones: how often does return gratitude to the? What about our teachers and parents who made us to become what we are today? Do we see life as the greatest gift to us? It is for this lack of gratitude that **Shakespeare** wrote in *King Lear*, "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child." **Plato** the father of western philosophers says A grateful mind is a great mind which eventually attracts to itself great things.

**Abraham Lincoln** says Don't kneel to me, that is not right. You must kneel to God only and thank Him for the liberty you will hereafter enjoy. When we thank God, he will do more than we expected.

The Eucharist also as known as 'Thanksgiving' is a reminder never to forget God's greatest gift to us, his own Son, our Savior. let us always try to be grateful and thankful after receiving favors from God, so that we might not sin, but be saved.

**Oh, that today you would listen to his voice harden not your hearts (Ps.95:7-8).**

**\*LET US PRAY\*:** Lord Jesus, fill our heart with compassion and thanksgiving, free us from ingratitude and discontentment and help us to count our blessings with a grateful heart and to give thanks in all circumstances.  
Amen

Peace,

Fr. Jingbe Simon