

January 17, 2008
Thursday of the First Week of Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

1 Samuel 4:1-11

Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

See that you tell no one anything... the man went away and began to publicize the whole matter.

First, the sensitivity of Jesus stands out for me here. Jesus was unable to ignore the request of the suffering leper because he felt the pain of his plight. The question for me is not how often have I healed, but how often have I walked by the suffering without stopping to respond to their needs?

Second, I am struck by the fact that this man goes off and tells everyone about Jesus in spite of the instruction given to him to tell no one. We too cannot keep our mouths shut. In this case it cost Jesus his anonymity. What does our 'talking' cost others? Are our words an innocent sharing of information, a spreading of the gospel message, or simply gossip that hurts and wounds?

Where do I need Jesus' healing?