

REFLECTION FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today, the Word of God highlights three very important aspects of our life of faith:

We must live by faith in Jesus Christ, knowing that in Him we find salvation and freedom, as the second reading tells us.

This faith in Christ should fill our lives with hope, because He never abandons us to our fate. He walks with us, listens to our prayers, and heals our wounds.

This must lead us to live a life of gratitude, continually giving thanks to God for the gifts He grants us and for the “healings” He works in us.

Let us see how these points appear in the Word of God we have just heard.

In the first reading and in the Gospel, we meet lepers who are healed of their disease. In the first reading, it is Naaman, the Syrian general, who had come to the land of Israel in search of healing for his leprosy. Through the intercession of the prophet Elisha, God healed him. Once cured, Naaman wanted to offer Elisha great gifts, but the prophet refused them all, recognizing that the healing was a gift from God, not his own doing. Then Naaman showed his gratitude to the Lord by asking to take some soil with him, so that he could build an altar to the Lord and worship Him, giving thanks for the good He had done.

In the Gospel, ten lepers approach Jesus, asking Him to heal them. Moved with compassion, Jesus sends them to the priests so that their healing might be confirmed and so they could return fully to society.

On the way, they realize they have been healed. Yet only one of them comes back to thank Jesus. There were ten, but only one returned—and Jesus asks, “Where are the other nine?”

So often, we live our lives complaining, closing our eyes to the many blessings that unfold each day. Let us strive to live a life of gratitude. This helps us recognize the good that is happening to us and protects us from pessimism, depression, and self-pity. On our daily journey, let us find time for God, time to pray, time to thank one another, and above all to thank the Lord—for His friendship, His presence with us, and the gifts He places along our path.

As we heard in the second reading, we are also invited to live with the awareness that we are pilgrims on our way to the heavenly homeland, strengthened by the hope that comes from faith in Christ Jesus.

For, as the letter says:

“This saying is sure:

If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with Him.

If we endure with Him, we shall also reign with Him.

If we deny Him, He will also deny us.

If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful,
for He cannot deny Himself.”

Let us live our faith in Christ with gratitude for all He gives us. Let us be people of hope, for those who believe in Christ always have reasons to hope and to give thanks for life.