



THURSDAY, 1st Week of Year

1 Samuel 4: 1-11
Ps 43: 10-11,14-15,24-25
Mark 1: 40-45

Wordcount

The leper who came to Jesus didn't directly ask Him for a cure. Instead, he expressed his faith in Him and who He was by saying: "If you want to, you can cure me". Jesus was evidently moved and touched by the man, and likely not merely by his pitiful condition but also by his strong expression of faith. The gospel says that Jesus felt sorry for him and stretched out His hand to touch him. And He said: "Of course I want to! Be cured!" The man's prayer is a bit different from a way of speaking that people sometimes use in prayer meetings, expressing the hope that the Lord might be able to do this or that. Perhaps this is felt to be more 'polite', less 'demanding': but on the face of it, it seems to suggest some doubt about God's ability! Do we forget that "nothing is impossible to God", and that Jesus taught us to ask insistently for what we want? The leper's prayer was more in tune with how Jesus himself taught us to pray to the Father: "Your will be done". In all our prayer, and in the way we live our lives, shouldn't it always be the will of God that we're seeking to find and conform to? He knows us far better than we know ourselves, and His will for each of us is our fullest development in His love. Our being fully alive is His glory, and in His will is our peace. The leper surely wanted to be cured. When he said "If you want to....", he was saying 'not my will but Yours be done'. "Help us, Lord, to know your will and do it with courage and faith".

Text wordcount: