

Homily for Monday, March 23, 2020

Father Andrew Curry

Jesus was a healer and miracle worker. He had a healing ministry. Some people had great faith that these actions showed that He was the Messiah and others were coming because they liked the entertainment.

Sometimes, Jesus would give the impression that He was not going to pray for healing. He wanted to make sure the request was made in faith and not in seeking fireworks. For instance, in today's Gospel we hear about the royal official requesting healing for his son. Jesus sometimes seemed like He was not interested in helping but He basically did this so that the person would show his faith and even grow in faith by taking a risk, and in this act receive healing personally or for another person.

In this time of pandemic and "social distancing," we need to have faith that Jesus wants to do great things. We might be tempted to think that Jesus is disinterested in us or that He wants this to happen to us. This is not the case. What God wants to see in these types of situations is that our love for Him is not only in the good times but that we also love Him in the difficult times.

In following Jesus, we do not only want to be amazed but we daily go after an increase of faith in our lives by risking and stepping out of our comfort zone for God and others. During this pandemic, let's grow in faith by setting aside time to pray. Particularly, let's ask Jesus to increase our faith in the power of intercession, that we can pray for others and they can truly be blessed in grace for holiness or life, faith, and protection. We are all royal officials, Sons and Daughters of the King of the Universe, seeking increase of faith and health for everyone in the world.

Gospel of John (4:43-54)

At that time Jesus left [Samaria] for Galilee. For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his native place. When he came into Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all he had done in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves had gone to the feast.

Then he returned to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. Now there was a royal official whose son was ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, who was near death. Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe."

The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus said to him, "You may go; your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and left.

While the man was on his way back, his slaves met him and told him that his boy would live. He asked them when he began to recover. They told him, "The fever left him yesterday, about one in the afternoon." The father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live," and he and his whole household came to believe. Now this was the second sign Jesus did when he came to Galilee from Judea.