

The Faith of Our Fathers

The faith of the leper who came to Jesus is indeed worthy of all our praise. He testified that Emmanuel can do all things perfectly. The man pleads with the Lord that by His divine command he might be delivered of his leprosy. What did Christ say to this? He confirmed him in his faith, and by this miracle showed that He approved it. For Our Lord says, "I am willing; be cleansed." Then He bestows on the leper the touch of His holy and omnipotent hand. Immediately the leprosy leaves the man. Join with me in awe, beholding Christ at work as both God and man. For it belongs to His divinity so to will that all things are as He wills; it is a human act to stretch forth the hand. In both the one and the other, Christ is perceived, since the Word became flesh. (St. Cyril of Alexandria) ❧❧❧

The Gospel is a good report, discourse and proclamation of Christ, announcing that He is nothing else but pure goodness, love and grace. Such a report could not possibly be made concerning any other human being, or any of the saints. For, although the other saints were men of quite good repute, a report on them does not constitute the Gospel as such. It is Gospel only when the goodness and grace of Christ are proclaimed. Even though mention is made of famous saints and their doings, this does not make the report the Gospel. The Gospel bases Christian faith and confidence solely on the rock, Jesus Christ. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

For the *Third Sunday after the Epiphany* These excerpts are intended as mediative pieces for the Day's pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

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