

BULLETIN REFLECTION

FEB 07 2021...5TH SUN ORD TIME...MK 1, 29-39

YEAR-B

Our gospel reading today speaks about Jesus healing them...WHY? What is in the sickness that needs to be addressed by Jesus?

Exodus 23:25 says that sickness would be taken away if one served the Lord.

25 You shall serve the LORD, your God; then he will bless your food and drink, and I will remove sickness from your midst;

In Deuteronomy 7:12, 15...reward is given to those who heed His ordinances...HOW... removal of their sickness...

12 As your reward for heeding these ordinances and keeping them carefully, the LORD, your God, will keep with you the covenant mercy he promised on oath to your ancestors.

15 The LORD will remove all sickness from you; he will not afflict you with any of the malignant diseases that you know from Egypt...

Deuteronomy 28:15-68 lists all the curses that God would place on people as a result of their unwillingness to serve him...

15 But if you do not obey the voice of the LORD, your God, carefully observing all his commandments and statutes which I give you today, all these curses shall come upon you and overwhelm you...

Sickness in His time had to bear a heavy social cost...1. The sick cannot earn a living for the family nor contribute to well-being of the household...2. The sick as an outcast could also not take his role (even the simplest role-just to be a citizen) in the community and be recognized as valuable member of the society. These were the effects of their sickness that for sure they did not want to happen.

The healing ministry of Jesus then is to restore life (not simply cure them of their diseases)...a kind of life which was taken away from them. Here is Christ telling them, 'let me bring back what really belongs to you...your very own life...a kind of life that can earn a living for your family---that can foster your family...a kind of life that is worthy enough in the community where you live...and to stretch it further a kind of life worthy in the eyes of God.'