

OCTOBER 9, 2016



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



2 KINGS 5:14-17

PSALM 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13

LUKE 17:11-19

REFLECTION

Today we hear of Jesus' immense love for those who are on the margins of society. He enters a village and, from a distance, ten lepers call to him, asking for mercy. In every time and place throughout human history, there have been people who have been outcasts, those who are ostracized by other members of the community. In ancient times up until recent history, leprosy was a misunderstood disease that was thought to be highly contagious. As a result, people with leprosy were shoved to the side with little hope for living a full life in their community. In the account from Luke today, Jesus gives them the hope that they needed and heals them of their disease. Today, we know more about this disease, and it is uncommon in North America (although in many developing countries, it is still quite prevalent). But in every corner of society, there are people looked down upon, shoved aside, and offered little hope for being welcomed by others. Who are the people living on the margins of your spheres of life?



*Learn more about
bullying and how you can
be a part of the solution:
www.stopbullying.gov/*

ACTION

As you probably are aware, bullying is a major problem in schools today. Perhaps you've been directly affected, on one side or another, by the problem of bullying. One big thing that we can take away from today's Gospel reading is that, regardless of who they are or what their "lot" in life is, everyone deserves love and respect. Assess your experience at school. Is bullying prevalent? What is in place at your school to address bullying? If there is an anti-bullying program, inquire about how you can get involved as a student in helping with the program. If there is not a program in place, strategize about how a program might get started, and then approach the school's administration with your ideas and seek out how to initiate a program. Think of some creative ways to raise awareness of bullying. Learn more about the problem of bullying and seek out how you can be a part of the solution.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Look around you. Identify people who are living on the margins of society. Brainstorm and write down ideas about how you might reach out to them. Have you ever experienced being pushed aside by others? How did that make you feel? Can you empathize with others who are treated as outcasts by society?