

The Gospel reveals how Jesus grew in popularity because of the opportunities for healing he brought. It was not a popularity he looked for since it had the danger of turning him into a mere miracle worker whose true purpose as the revelation of the healing of the world would not be understood.

Nevertheless, today a leper is cleansed because Jesus chose to cure him. The words of the leper, "If you want to, you can cure me," are certainly words of faith.

It is the faith which places our situations into the hands of God and does not demand things to be done the way we think they should be done. There is a need for this kind of faith in the world with its current and multiple crises and the first reading, in many ways calls we Christians to demonstrate it more significantly than anyone else. After all, our faith is based upon Jesus who completely placed his life into the hands of God and found himself enduring what many would consider a failure by God.

The writer to the Hebrews refers to the time when the Hebrew people built the golden calf while Moses was on Mt Sinai. They weren't happy with the way things were going and so they decided to take things into their own hands and, as a result, they completely shunned the God who was in the midst of rescuing them. They did not have the faith to let God carry the plan God intended for them. God was ready to destroy them when Moses became their intercessor and appealed for their forgiveness.

Why we Christians should be better is that we have already seen our intercessor appeal for our forgiveness from the cross. We have already known the witness of the resurrection. We have the least reason to turn away from God, or worse, to assume we know more than God and to take things into our own hands.

These words in Hebrews are pertinent to our COVID times, "As long as this 'today' lasts, keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the lure of sin"

Of course, God wants to save us.