

Until recently leprosy was a dreaded, incurable disease. It has taken the lives and limbs of many millions down through the centuries. Frequently in the Gospels it is seen as a symbol of sinfulness.

Is there anything in your life that feels like leprosy, for example, chronic anger, obsessive self pity, chronic shame or anything else in your life that eats away at your awareness of God's love for you. This can include physical ailments like cancer, arthritis or even depression.

It's difficult to accept these illnesses or admit to the reality of these afflictions that may burden us. But for so many of us they are a reality. So what are we to do?

First of all I have to recognize, become aware of my weakness, my leprosy. Without this awareness I'm going nowhere. Next, I need to accept the reality of the flaw that is within me. Then like the leper in today's Gospel I need to beg for healing. And what does Jesus do? "I do will it. Be made clean, be healed. I love you."

Sometimes our healing breaks down at this point. I might deny or resent that I have this flaw. Our pride can block our healing.

But Jesus will continue to approach us, to offer us His healing love, His healing touch. Listen to Him. He tells us, "I do will it! Be healed!"

What a perfect time to begin over gain to seek healing as we begin the holy season of Lent!

And during Black History month we can focus on America's Original Sin; Racism. Lord Jesus heal us of this horrible sin. Please may we be healed. Guide us into the path of love.

"I do will, be healed!"