

Fr. Martin's Reflection – October 12, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today's readings invite us to recognize God's healing power and to respond with faith and gratitude. In 2 Kings 5:14–17, Naaman, a foreign general afflicted with leprosy, is healed after obeying the prophet Elisha's simple instruction to wash in the Jordan River. At first, Naaman's pride resists the humility of the act, but when he finally submits in faith, he is made clean. His healing leads to conversion—a recognition that there is no God but the Lord of Israel. Healing, therefore, is not just physical; it is spiritual. It transforms Naaman's heart from doubt to belief, from self-reliance to worship.

In 2 Timothy 2:8–13, St. Paul reminds us of the faithfulness of God during our trials. Even when Paul is bound in chains, he proclaims that “the word of God is not chained.” His perseverance becomes a witness to Christ's own endurance. Paul assures us that if we die with Christ, we will live with Him; if we persevere, we will reign with Him. God's mercy remains steadfast even when we falter. Like Naaman, we are reminded that God's grace is not earned by status or effort but received through faith and obedience.

The Gospel, Luke 17:11–19, brings these themes together beautifully. Ten lepers cry out to Jesus for mercy, and all are healed—but only one, a Samaritan, returns to give thanks. Jesus' words to him, “Your faith has saved you,” reveal that gratitude is the fruit of genuine faith. The other nine received physical healing, but only the thankful one experienced the fullness of salvation. Gratitude opens the heart to ongoing relationship with God—it is faith in action.

These readings challenge us to examine our own hearts. How often do we take God's blessings for granted, failing to return in thanksgiving? Like Naaman and the grateful leper, we are called to humility, to recognize that every gift—health, forgiveness, and salvation—flows from God's mercy. True faith responds not only with belief but with gratitude that transforms our lives.

Let us, then, live as people healed and renewed by Christ, always returning to Him in thanksgiving, proclaiming with joy: “The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed!”

Blessings for the week ahead.

Fr. Martin