

CHURCH OF TE HEPARA PAI

Sunday 15 February 2015

Te Rātapu Tuaono o He wā noa iho / 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

JESUS THE FRIEND OF OUTCASTS



LORD, I WAS THAT
LOST CAUSE
AND I WAS THE
OUTCAST
BUT YOU DIED FOR
SINNERS
JUST LIKE ME

JESUS THE FRIEND OF OUTCASTS

SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

The people were all filled with wonder and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." (Luke 7:16)

COLLECT OF THE DAY – *Let us pray:*

Divine Physician, healer of bodies and souls, stretch out your hand and touch us. Cleanse our hearts from the sin that separates us from you and one another. Recreate us in your own image, and restore us in Christ, so that we may run the race and receive the prize of everlasting life. **Amen.**

I Corinthians 9:24-27

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

SHOW COMPASSION TO OUTCASTS

Captured Fire

The Sunday Homilies



Jesus the Friend of Outcasts

The Old Testament passage for today from 2 Kings 5 tells us that God's specially sent messengers, or prophets, through the power of God, could cure bodily diseases. Jesus Christ was one of the specially sent messengers or prophets who through the power of God could cure bodily diseases. The gospel passage

for today from Mark 1 tells us that a man with a bodily disease which could be passed on to others through bodily contact approached Jesus for healing. Anyone with his disease had to stay away from other people. He suffered in two ways. He had to suffer from his disease. He also suffered from his lonely situation outside society. He was what we would call an outcast. This man approached Jesus. He believed that Jesus had the power to cure him. But he did not know that Jesus loved people. He was not sure whether Jesus would want to cure him.

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man who had the bodily disease. When he did that, Jesus showed his love. And right away the disease left the man, and he was cured. His diseased body was made whole in an instant. He was given a brand new body in that very moment.

Those who claim to be God's people must also show aroha. This means more than that we should have pity and concern for others. We must actually do something. In particular we should give help to those in society who are likely to be disadvantaged, such as children whose parents have died, women whose husbands have died, people from foreign countries living among us, those who are ill-treated, those who are suffering and the poor. We should do this in order to '*run the Christian race*' as it were " *in a way that will get us the prize*" (1 Cor. 9:24). That is, we should do this to run our race in this world so we will receive a reward from God for it in the life of the new world to come. Which also means that we should regard Christianity as a life of effort. As runners in a race strain to the full to win the prize, so Christians should put all their effort into whatever they do such as into giving help to those in society who are likely to be disadvantaged.

In the Christian race we do not compete with one another for the prize. We compete with ourselves. The emphasis is on self-discipline, not competition. In a foot race only one person is the winner, but in the Christian race all who keep the rules and run hard will receive a reward in the life of the new world to come.

After Jesus showed kindness to the man in need by curing his bodily disease and giving him a new body, he clearly and firmly told him not to publicly make known what had happened, as he did not want to attract people who wanted cure for bodily diseases but had no sense of the need to be cured from the disease of sin which leads to eternal death. Having a bodily disease cured will lengthen a person's life in this world for a while. But we of all people with the number of tangihanga which we attend are being constantly reminded that the life of this world is not for ever. Have you been cured from the disease of sin? All you need to do is turn away from sin and invite Jesus into your heart to obey him to gain eternal life.

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - amen.



The Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-14

A reading from 2 Kings chapter 5 beginning at verse 1.

Naaman Is Healed of a Skin Disease

¹ Naaman was army commander of the king of Aram. He was very important to his master and was highly respected. That's because the LORD had helped him win the battle over Aram's enemies. He was a brave soldier. But he had a skin disease.

² Groups of soldiers from Aram had marched out. They had captured a young girl from Israel. She became a servant of Naaman's wife. ³ The young girl spoke to the woman she was serving. She said, "I wish my master would go and see the prophet who is in Samaria. He would heal my master of his skin disease."

⁴ Naaman went to see his own master. He told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵ "I think you should go," the king of Aram replied. "I'll give you a letter to take to the king of Israel." So Naaman left. He took 750 pounds of silver with him. He also took 150 pounds of gold. And he took ten sets of clothes. ⁶ He carried the letter to the king of Israel. It said, "I'm sending my servant Naaman to you with this letter. I want you to heal him of his skin disease."

⁷ The king of Israel read the letter. As soon as he did, he tore his royal robes. He said, "Am I God? Can I kill people and bring them back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be healed of his skin disease? He must be trying to pick a fight with me!"

⁸ *Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes. So he sent the king a message. Elisha said, "Why have you torn your robes? Tell the man to come to me. Then he will know there is a prophet in Israel!"* ⁹ So Naaman went to see Elisha. He took his horses and chariots with him. He stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger out to him. The messenger said, "Go! Wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed. You will be pure and 'clean' again."

¹¹ But Naaman went away angry. He said, "I was sure Elisha would come out to me. I thought he would stand there and pray to the LORD his God. I thought he would wave his hand over my skin. Then I would be healed. ¹² And what about the Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus? Aren't they better than all the rivers of Israel? Couldn't I wash in the rivers of Damascus and be made pure and 'clean'?" So he turned and went away. He was very angry.

¹³ Naaman's servants went over to him. They said, "You are like a father to us. What if Elisha the prophet had told you to do some great thing? Wouldn't you have done it? But he only said, 'Wash yourself. Then you will be pure and 'clean.'" You should be even more willing to do that!" ¹⁴ So Naaman went down to the Jordan River. He dipped himself in it seven times. He did exactly what the man of God had told him to do. Then his skin was made pure again. It became "clean" like the skin of a young boy.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: WEDNESDAY,
18 FEBRUARY, 2015 AT 7:00PM.

The Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

A reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 9 beginning at verse 24.

Training to Win the Prize

²⁴ *In a race all the runners run. But only one gets the prize. You know that, don't you? So run in a way that will get you the prize.* ²⁵ All who take part in the games train hard. They do it to get a crown that will not last. But we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ So I do not run like someone who doesn't run toward the finish line. I do not fight like a boxer who hits nothing but air. ²⁷ No, I train my body and bring it under control. Then after I have preached to others, I myself will not break the rules. If I did break them, I would fail to win the prize.

Let us all say together in te reo Māori the reading below from 1 Corinthians chapter 9 beginning at verse 24. Kia pānui tātou.

²⁴ Kahore oti koutou i matau ki te hunga e oma whakataetae ana, e oma katoa ana, kotahi ano ia mona te utu whakahonore? Kia pena ta koutou oma, kia whiwhi ai koutou.

²⁵ Na ko nga tangata katoa e whakataetae ana i nga takaro e whakakoromaki ana i nga hiahia katoa. Na e pera ana ratou kia whiwhi ai ki te karauna pirau; ko tatou ia ki te mea e kore e pirau.

²⁶ Ko ahau nei hoki, kahore i ngaro taku oma; e kuru ana ahau, kahore ia e rite ki te kaipatu o te hau:

²⁷ Engari e pehia ana e ahau toku tinana, meinga ana hoki hei pononga maku; kei kauwhau pea ahau ki etahi atu, ko ahau ia ka akiritia atu.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading: Mark 1:40-45

The Holy Gospel according to Mark chapter 1 beginning at verse 40. Praise and Glory to God.

Jesus Heals a Man Who Had a Skin Disease

⁴⁰ A man who had a skin disease came to Jesus. On his knees he begged Jesus. He said, "If you are willing to make me 'clean,' you can do it."

⁴¹ *Jesus became angry. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing to do it," Jesus said. "Be 'clean'!"* ⁴² Right away the disease left the man, and he was "clean."

⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once. He gave the man a strong warning. ⁴⁴ "Don't tell this to anyone," he said. "Go and show yourself to the priest. Offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded. It will be a witness to the priest and the people that you are 'clean.'" ⁴⁵ But the man went out and started talking right away. He spread the news to everyone. So Jesus could no longer enter a town openly. He stayed outside in lonely places. But people still came to him from everywhere.

This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ, the Word.