

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (1 Peter 2:23-24)

When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His Body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – I am the God who heals you (Exodus 15:26)

Jesus heals us by taking on His own sinless Body the iniquity of us all. *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6).* Sickness in any aspect of the person has its first origin in sin. *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).* To heal us of all our sins and sicknesses, Jesus came to offer the Sacrifice of His own Body, Blood and Death to His Heavenly Father as an atonement for our sins so that eternal life is made available to everyone who can accept the love and mercy of God. No one is excluded. Everyone is precious to God.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." (Galatians 3:13). As Christ personally took the punishment due to our sins, He earned for us all the spiritual blessings from God. *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).* Do we want God's blessings and prepare ourselves to receive it and allow it to transform our lives?

Jesus heals wounds caused by our disobedience and rebellion through His obedience to His Heavenly Father unto death on the Cross. Out of love, Jesus made Himself nothing and divested Himself of all glory to be born incarnate into our world. He humbly submitted Himself to Mary and Joseph in fulfillment of His Heavenly Father's will. He did not come in majesty and glory but as the servant of God the Father and of all. *The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).* **Jesus heals wounds caused by pride by enduring much humiliation during His time on earth.** Before He was made to carry the cross in shame through the streets, He was mocked and sneered at and abused by the soldiers who made Him wear a crown of thorns and mockingly paid Him homage.

Jesus heals our wounds caused by rejection by enduring rejection even before His birth. Mary and Joseph could not even find a decent shelter in preparation for His birth. Throughout His life on earth, Jesus was rejected because the pride of the Jews could not accept His teachings and His identity. The final rejection came on the Cross of Calvary when His disciples except Mary and John the Evangelist abandoned Him when He was dying. Even God the Father had to look away from the painful sight of Jesus on the Cross bearing all the sins of the world.

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). Thus, to heal the wounds caused by sins of impurity, Jesus had to submit His Body to be scourged at the pillar to take all the punishment of sins committed against the human body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. In accordance with God's will, for all and every sin committed in the past, present and future, Jesus has to atone for it in His own human body in line with the moral justice of God the Father. For this reason, Christ is fitted with a human body (cf. Hebrews 10:5).

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, You are the sacrificial Lamb of God, the only One worthy and holy enough to make atonement for all the grievous sins committed in the world against God the Father. Through Your Precious Blood shed on the Cross, You won for me redemption and justification. Standing in Your righteousness, I have all the graces I need to overcome any and all sin and the divine power to forgive all who offend me. All the wounds, pain, sorrow and weaknesses caused by sins can become a thing of the past if I open my heart and mind to be made new by Your graces. Through Your grace, I can be an overcomer, a conqueror of all that works against my glorious eternal inheritance. No matter how far I may have fallen from Your grace, help me remember and open the eyes of my heart to the unassailable hope that is mine. Jesus, I place all my trust in Your mercy, and I open my heart and mind to Your complete healing. For You are the God who heals me. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.