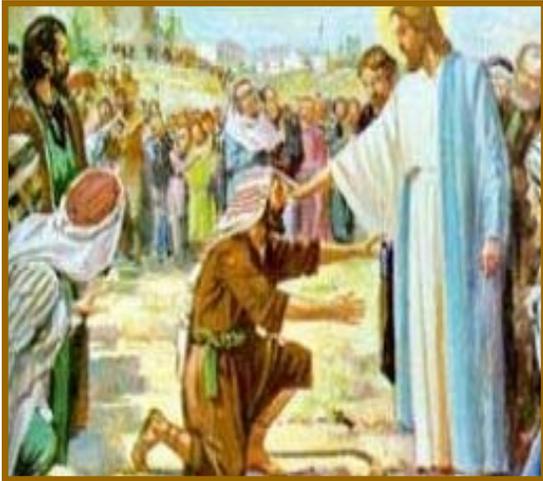


But go, shew thyself to the priest.

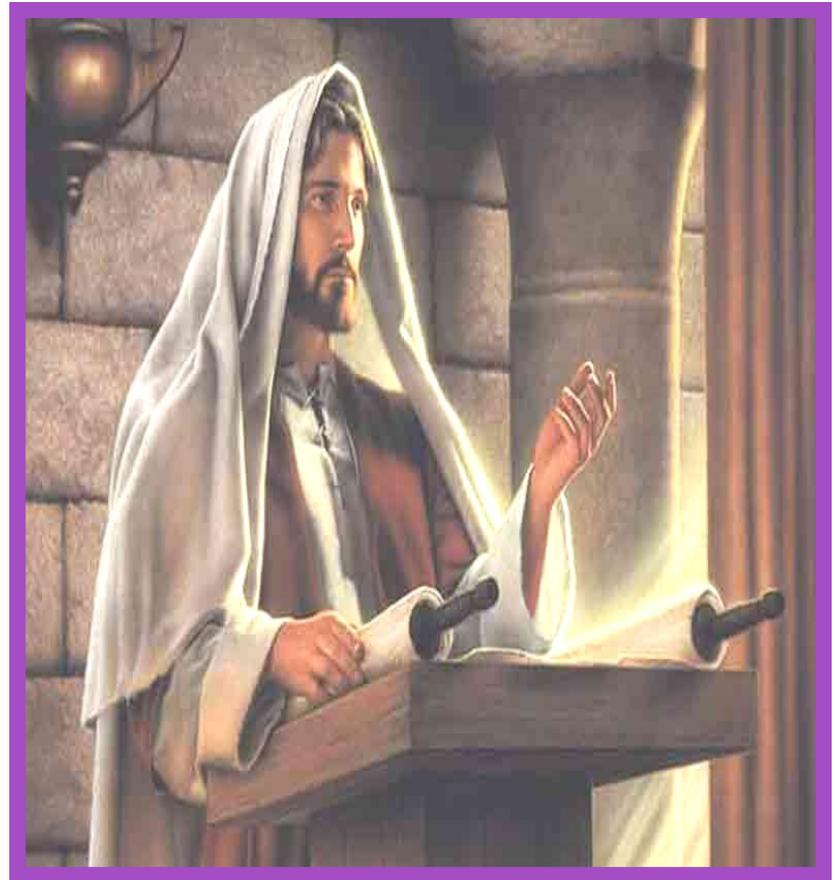


He bids him, for various reasons, go to the priest. First out of humility, so that he will be seen to give honor to the priests. For there was a precept of the Law, that whoever was

cleaned of leprosy should make an offering to the priests. Again, that those seeing the leper now made clean would either believe in the Savior or would not believe. If they believed, they would be saved: if they believed not, they would be inexcusable. Lastly, lest He might not seem to infringe the Law, of which they were frequently to accuse Him.



**SERMON ON
THE HEALING OF THE LEPER
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
135 - 1**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

Volume 1 - Pages 1385 - 1386 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew 8: 1-13

by: Saint Jerome, Confessor and Doctor

When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold a leper came and adored Him:

As the Lord came down from the mountain, the multitudes met Him, because they were unable to ascend to the heights. And the first to meet Him was a leper. Because of his leprosy he had been unable to hear the wondrous discourse of the Savior spoken on the mountain. And observe that he was the first to be miraculously cured; then, secondly, the servant of the Centurion; thirdly, the mother-in-law of Saint Peter, of a fever, in Capharnaum. In the fourth place, those that *were brought to Him possessed with devils*, whose evil spirits He cast forth *with His word, when all that were sick He healed*. Fittingly, after His sermon and instruction, an occasion presents itself for a sign, so that the sermon they had heard might be confirmed by the power of a miracle.

Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

He who petitions the will of the Lord, does not doubt His power.

And Jesus stretching forth His Hand, etc., etc.

Stretching forth His Hand, immediately the leprosy disappears. Consider here again how humble and unassuming the answer. The leper had said: *if thou wilt*. The Lord answers: *I will*. The leper had already said: *thou canst make me clean*. The Lord joins both requests, and says: *be thou made clean*.

Not therefore, as many Latins are of opinion, must we unite and read together these phrases, as: *I will be thou made clean*; but separately, as He first says: *I will*. Then, as it were commanding, He says: *Be thou made clean*.

And Jesus saith: *see thou tell no man*.

And indeed what need was there that he should boast by word of that which his body proclaimed.