

Homily
Friday of the 1st Week of OT
January 12, 2024

The human body is an amazing machine. Air, a little water, some food, and it just runs and runs. We get injured and the body will often heal itself. A little cut or bruise eventually goes away on its own. A more severe injury and we may need the help of a doctor. Antibiotics and other medications can relieve many ailments. Sometimes more invasive treatments or even surgery is required for a full recovery. But, left unattended, a severe injury can lead to total failure of the body.

Isn't that the way it is in the world? Someone does something stupid. If it's something minor, it usually goes unnoticed. Something really stupid and maybe someone else is affected. Left unattended and society as a whole is affected. This is what happened when sin entered the world.

The correlation between a physical ailment and sin is very real. Maybe not a direct correlation, but there is a parallel. And this is what Jesus is trying to tell the scribes: He is above the physical and the spiritual. Jesus can heal injury and forgive sin. He is the whole package. He is God.

Today, we realize that our sins are not the cause of our ailments, but death entered the world with the first sin, Original Sin (thank you so much, Adam and Eve). Every time we sin, we hurt the Body of Christ. The more we sin, the more hurt we cause. And the opposite is true; the more we avoid sin and embrace virtue, the more we love our neighbor, the more heal the Body of Christ. We are cooperating with God's plan to heal the world. Only God can forgive sin, but we participate in healing the world by not sinning and doing charitable works.

We pray for one another; we love one another; we treat one another the way we want to be treated. This is often not so easy, and we often make mistakes, but tomorrow is another day and another chance to be Christ for the world, for one another. When we make a mistake, we own it, make up for it, seek forgiveness, make amends, and we go to the true source of life and health, both physical and spiritual. We come to our Lord and Savior, in His Sacraments of healing, Reconciliation to return to God's good grace, and the Eucharist which we are about to receive, for nourishment and strength.

All that is required is our faith, cooperation and perseverance. Through God's love and mercy, we will survive and thrive until we see Him face to face in that heavenly kingdom.