



14th Sunday of Luke 18:35-43

"...those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

"Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man!...for so their fathers did to the prophets." (Thursday gospel Lk 6: 17-23)

On Thursday, in the chapel, while we were reflecting on the gospel, Daniel touched on the rejection he experienced every time he reached out to the people on the street. He described it as a reality of reaching out to those in need. The rejection comes from everywhere. From those he knows and from those he doesn't, out of skepticism and lack of faith. It bothers him but he does it for Jesus he says. That keeps him going and helps him not doubt himself.

The rejection is the reverse of mercy. We see it today in the gospel. The blind beggar is being rebuked by the crowd. Somehow, the crowd reacts based on a veridic reality. What can a blind beggar say in order to be worthy of listening? He does not see and he lives at the mercy of people. "We give you what you ask, is this not enough to buy your silence?" What can anyone who lives at the "mercy" of people say to be worthy of listening, worthy to be taken into account? It is not the first time the crowd and the disciples do that: silencing the voice that cries out to Jesus (Canaanite woman, Matthew 15:21-28) or asking Jesus to do the same (rebuking the voice of those who cry) - **"Teacher, rebuke your disciples."** He answered, **"I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."**(Luke 19:40)

This rejection in the heart of the blind beggar was not a new thing. He probably experienced it on a daily basis because of his condition. As evidence shows, when someone begged for money, most people would not give them anything and the rejection of being recognized as a human being in need harms the soul. It is true that the kindness of one person overtakes the rejection of one thousand, but where do you find that one

person? The rejection blinds the soul who desires to see mercy. Most of the time, the rejection weighs heavily within the heart, teaching the heart to become resistant to mercy. One might say that we get used to it as we get used to the changes in the weather. I don't think that is true. I would rather say that the more rejection we experience the more difficult it is to open ourselves to mercy. Otherwise, why is God merciful with us and lets His face shine upon us? God shows no rejection towards man because only a mustard seed of rejection would alienate the human being completely. Every rejection experienced within the heart is human and it needs to be faced and gone through in order to approach the mercy of God. At times God teaches us how to be merciful in order for us to receive His mercy. What we experienced while being broken and in need for healing within our soul, becomes God's perfect gift for us.

This week I spoke to two people who experienced persecution in their countries (for totally different reasons) and they came to Canada out of this necessity. It was given to us to listen to the effects that this experience had in their lives: the rejection by your own kind that becomes persecution. At times the recovery seems impossible. And when it happens, it requires sweat and blood from the soul. It leaves wounds that deepen the need for the other who is postponing to come in peace.

"...for so their fathers did to the prophets."

What we see in the gospel today is that God hears the voice that is silenced and speaks back to it. The voice that asks for mercy and is rejected by many becomes the voice of faith. Because the soul that experienced persecution is blessed by God when the persecution is done in His name.

How do we know that the rejection was done in His name? We know it when Christ lets us hear the voice of those who cry to Him. When we hear the voice of faith that comes from the mouths of those who could not be silenced by rejection.

We heard this week in the Beatitudes of Luke that the burden of those who are persecuted is the burden of the Word of God. Poverty, hunger, sorrow in need of healing, the tears of those who lack comfort are the prophetic reality through which God speaks to us. Within the community we are called to listen to the voice of faith and to magnify it in order for the community at large to become aware. If we hear this voice it means it is done in His name, in order for us to change the unchangeable and to approach the unapproachable.

Friday on the Sunday gospel

M. is a quiet presence among us. So quiet that at times I am teasing him for not doing much. I thought that he does not do much because he does not trust himself when it comes to practical things. Even for sweeping and cleaning he doesn't show much confidence even though he has great ideas on what needs to be done and he gets a lot of encouragement from us. He's been around the mission for about 15 years and he just recently started doing some things (like ringing the bells before services), which was a nice surprise. Another thing he started doing recently, when tempted by the priest who asks him questions, is giving his two cents about the coming Sunday's gospel, during our discussions on Friday afternoons. He thought today's gospel was pretty clear and simple. The guy was in need and Jesus heard him and healed him and the guy was thankful for that. "Are we thankful all the time?" I asked him. "Remember last week's gospel about the 10 lepers...only one was really thankful." "Yes, that's true. Sometimes people are thankful, sometimes they are not. It depends on what they live and how they live it. Everybody is different. I am thankful every morning when I wake up. I am just thankful for life and I am thankful for other people. At night I ask for blessings. So God blesses everybody. Everybody needs to be blessed. So I asked God to bless us all. People need blessings. Every night I do that."

M. said other things, about how the world is changing. "Is it changing for better or for worse" I asked. "Change is coming, you can sense that". He said something like Jean-Louis Chrétien, the French philosopher, that the world progresses both in evil and good at the same time.

But the one thing that stood out from everything he said to us on Friday was his every night prayer asking for blessings for all of us. Especially knowing that M. grew up in an orphanage and that experience wasn't easy for him. He blesses us all today with hope, while parental love was rejected to him as a child. Maybe this way we can become like the real people with whom Jesus talks in the Beatitudes. Maybe this is what is changing for better and for worse. We are changing so we can receive full heartedly the blessing of Christ, prayed upon us every night by a soul that found faith after lacking parental love.



“We give you what you ask, is this not enough to buy your silence?”

Suppression of faith is a denial of it. . . “There are no tongues and no words in which their voices are not heard” (Ps 18:3). Thereupon, if a word is not spoken it is no word at all.”
(St Maximos the Confessor celebrated on Friday)

Please pray for the sick:

Marco; Kim (knee surgery); Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark (back surgery); Kim; Sana, and her family in Egypt (Sana's father passed away in Egypt); Isaiah; Pani Alexandra; Mary Mcgee's daughter, Sydney; Peter Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip Hadler and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Constanta; Jeni; Florea, Robert; Constantin, Silvia, Claudia Alex; Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain; Levalin and the family; Seena Colin and her husband;; Waheeda and children; Faizah (depression); Shirin and her family; Sana and her husband; Eva; Frank, Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia; Ati ; Ragaie; Victoria; Prayers for Mike. Farida need prayers for her hand to heal ; Prayers for Roselyne and family ; Ana, Cornelia; Prayer for Leon to Jerry; Nikitha, Ocean; Prayer for Gloria, Anne, Marina, Marie, Edemene; Joanna and family GN; Rejoice; Romana, Colin, Michael, Peter, Henry, Joanna, George, Kelly; Tom; Marina; Sandra and her son Chris; Kumari; Susan; child James; Aaron; Sylvia; Fr Jonathan; Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia; Amy; Swetha and children ; Charitha; Jitesh's parents ; Demene; Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Tharsini and her child; Sana's Sister; Ann T.'s husband; Lynn; Michelle; Emanuel (Mani); Stefanie; Geoff; Joey; Evangelia; Sophia; Melanie; Césare; Tanya; Piper; Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral ; Brenda; Anna Avairo's daughter Vol Gomaz; Levlin's two children Sri' ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa and Sana's sister

Please pray for health and salvation:

Community In Goma and the children in their care: Neema; Rosine; Justine; Miriam; Chance; Jemyma; Patricia; Alliance; Nice; Dorcas; Justine; Agnes; Muhindo Dorcas. Rejoice; Claudio of Sant'Egidio for health and salvation; George, Connie, Nick, Fennie, Theodore, Chris, Nick, Toula, Steven, Nicole, Tony, Sam, Sophia.; Prayer for Mary Mcgee. She lost her grandmother.; Fr. Michael and Pani Karen; Anthony and the family. He lost his brother in Trinidad. He is hoping to make a visit to Trinidad; Ramanand and his families in Guyana, USA and here in Canada (Ramanand lost three of his family members including one of his brothers, suddenly within two months); Paola; Elizabeth; Matthi; Dave and his family; Jai's family; Anne Tyran; Joseph to find housing; Lito; Mauro, Prayers for Ted's family (incarcerated son to be free)

Dameal asking prayers for his future wife Fathima to be free from addictions
Liz Gibicar asking prayers for her mother; Mom waiting for baby Tejasree;
Prashastha; Maria and Dingo; Crisent; Helen; Greta; Elizabeth; Dean; John; Liz;
Crisent; Ann Brown; Elizabeth; Sifie; Allen; Leon; Ricky and his family from back
home for the hope of reuniting; Aaron, Anastas, Olivia, Gelly, Frank, Eva, George,
Rebecca, Andreas, Cathyann, Reigan, Stephanie, Peter, Christine; Christian family
from Bangladesh, Sandra, Peter, Angel, Bless, Grace, Swetha family; Atlaw single
mom at shelter, Vernevil family; the family of Kenide; Saathiya; Sena; Vinothiny
Yvienne; Abdul; Sakanthalathevy; Jumke; Naimi; Anish; Joshua Daniel J Maria Lolita
Soliman Torres, Jonathan , Richard, Richard, Mary , Elizabeth, Michael, Bill, Robert,
Alan, Joanne

Please pray for the deceased:

Rejoice`s mother

Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre;
Stela; William; Samuel; Debie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin `s cousin
in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene,
Joice, BettyAnn, James, Pauanasuy Kamthasang, Maria (Covid), Andrei, Agostina,
Carminda, Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother, Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew
passed away in Haiti. Demene`s mother; Dalalzaki