



# ST THOMAS SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH BOSTON

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MY LORD,  
MY GOD!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF KAITHAKALAM  
AUGUST 03, 2008

EXALTED  
BY GOD!

## LEPROSY

### Today's Gospel (Lk. 17:11-19)

*As he continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met (him). They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."*

Leprosy has tormented humans throughout recorded history. The earliest possible account of a disease that many scholars believe is leprosy appears in an Egyptian Papyrus document written around 1550 B.C. Around 600 B.C. Indian writings describe a disease that resembles leprosy. In Europe, leprosy first appeared in the records of ancient Greece after the army of Alexander the Great came back from India and then in Rome in 62 B.C. coinciding with the return of Pompeii's troops from Asia Minor.

Throughout its history, leprosy has been feared. For a long time leprosy was thought to be a hereditary disease, a curse, or a punishment from God. Before and even after the discovery of its biological cause, leprosy patients were stigmatized and shunned. For example, in Europe during the Middle Ages, leprosy sufferers had to wear special clothing, ring bells to warn others that they were close, and even walk on a particular side of the road, depending on the direction of the wind. Even in modern times, leprosy treatment has often occurred in separate hospitals and live-in colonies called leprosariums because of the stigma of the disease.

The earliest sign of leprosy is commonly a spot on the skin that may be slightly redder, darker, or lighter than the person's normal skin. The spot may lose feeling and hair. In some people the only sign is numbness in a finger or toe.

If left untreated, leprosy has serious effects on the body, including:

\* Hands and feet - Leprosy bacteria attack the nerves in the hands and feet and cause them to become numb. A person may get cuts or burns on the numb parts and not know it, leading to infections which cause permanent damage. Fingers and toes may be lost to infection. Serious infections in the feet may require amputation. Paralysis may cause the fingers and toes to curl up permanently.

\* Eyes - Leprosy bacteria attack the nerves around the eyes causing the loss of blinking reflex (which protects the eye from injury and moistens the surface). The eyes become dry and infected, and blindness may result. Because of numbness of the eye, the person cannot feel dirt or scratches in the eye.

\* Face - Damage to the internal lining of the nose causes scarring and eventual collapse of the nose.

\* \* \* \* \*

The case of a sinful man is the same. It begins as a small spot, subjugates the emotions, numbs the conscience; then the whole morality begins to decay. Ends up in permanent paralysis of the relationship with God and his children. We have noticed people with no moral sense. They lose their identity/face as children of God and end up in eventual collapse of life.

Once affected, only Jesus can heal and cleanse.

Let's raise our voice, saying, "**Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!**"

Today...

11.30 am : Holy Qurbana; Parish Council

Marching forward...

Sunday Celebration Assignments

Today : Youth

August 10 : Little Flower Family Unit

Aug. 06 : Transfiguration of our Lord; Holy Qurbana at 9 am

Aug. 08 : Sacred Heart Family Unit Prayer at the home of Mathew and Mary Peralakkattuchalil

Aug. 09 : 11 am - Holy Qurbana; Novena; Memorial of Annam m/o Elsie Vithayathil

Infant Jesus Family Unit Picnic

Aug. 15 : The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Indian Independence Day; Holy Qurbana at 7 pm.

Aug. 16 : Divine Mercy Family Unit Pilgrimage to Divine Mercy Shrine



PLEASE recite the PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE AND OUR PARISH every day in your families.

Mission Director : Fr. Kuriakose Vadana; Kaikkarans : Jimmy Joseph Valliyara & Sino Sebastian Ottalankal