

**Introduction to the first reading: When the Messiah comes, when the messiah comes...! Do we await the coming of the Messiah in hope?**

**Seek the Healer, not the healing.**

**Consider this: we are only in the seventh chapter out of sixteen in Mark's gospel, but after this Sunday's gospel reading there are only four more healing stories by Jesus. Earlier in this gospel (from the first chapter up to here) he worked so many cures that people were mobbing him.**

**That was the trouble. Jesus was in danger of becoming a famous wonder-worker. He would save people from all their problems— give them health, save them from poverty, resuscitate them from death, well, you name it. He would have Andy Warhol's famous "fifteen minutes of fame," but not much more. Does "fame" really reveal God's love for the world and its peoples? Jesus was after much more.**

**A human person is created to be loved by God,  
not just to have life, good health, riches or reputation.**

These are wonderful, but real life consists of the exchange of love with God and with others. Recently we celebrated the life of Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul. But after the seven plus hours of praise and prayer, I still was not sure if she received what we all need: knowing that she was loved by God.

If we are loved by God, this intimate relationship will send us out to help heal the world and give God's love to it.

Yes, ultimately we seek the healer, not the healing.

(Break)

That is why Jesus said not to tell anyone about the miracle until after he would suffer, die, and rise.

We follow Christ through our own suffering and dying so that we might confidently rise with him.

*Each of us must face the event of our own death.* Beyond cures, which are wonderful yet partial, God gives us deep companionship within each instant of our life.

At today's Mass, let us ask ourselves whether the intimate presence of God is at least part of what we desire in our own lives. Do we sense that Christ is deeply involved with us? Do we let his love flow into us and through us to others, or must it fight its way around us?

Let's pray to hear, as the deaf man finally did.

**And so Jesus heals the limitations of this one deaf man. The love of the Lord heals the deaf man's soul as well as his body. Let us be humble enough to hear the love of the Lord in this story.**

**And two recent tweets, two short prayers, from Pope Francis will tell us if we have really experienced the intimate love of God, if we have completely entered into the gift of his life.**

**His first tweet is simply:**

**"Lord, teach us to step outside ourselves. Teach us to go out into the streets and manifest your love."**

**His second tweet is:**

**"True charity (truly entering into relationship with God) requires courage: let us overcome the fear of getting our hands dirty so as to help those in need" (as Jesus did when he healed the deaf man).**

**Remember, Seek the Healer, not the healing.**

