

In the gospel today, Jesus does a wonderful thing. He not only heals a man, but he gives him the freedom to rejoin society. As we hear in the first reading from Leviticus, people with leprosy suffered not only physically, but they suffered the pain of loneliness. Jesus truly made the man whole again. And even though he told the man not to tell anyone, how could the man who was once a leper keep such a thing to himself? Jesus' popularity became immense.

Popularity is a dangerous animal. If you were able to get rid of people's problems, indeed, you would be popular. You might even have problems having a life of your own. What is the challenge? For the person diligently following Christ, there is no *me, my or I*, there is only the constant giving of oneself so that the glory of God may be known. Paul was turned around to understand the all-encompassing demand to follow Jesus and be like him. "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." The call to be Christian leads us down a path not of our choosing, but of the Lord. Are you ready? Are you willing? Can you be led? Get your ego out of the way and let Christ lead you.