

Lamentation Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time Saturday, June 25, 2016 8:15 AM
Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Mt 8:5-17 (BVM) (It is by accepting our complete vulnerability, our complete helplessness, and relying totally on God that we can eventually get to where God is leading us.)

“He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

This is Matthew’s interpretation of Isaiah that the bearing of our diseases means that Jesus came to lift us up into health, and that is a very legitimate interpretation, but not the only one. We see in the first reading lamentations. Actually in Scripture, especially the **Old Testament**, especially the Book of Psalms lamentation is one of the most common themes. Life is hard. Life is difficult. Life is a burden. **There’s pain and suffering as part and parcel of life.** And one of the responses to this is **the theme of lamentation. There is a way in which weeping and lamenting and crying becomes a religious act, an act of submission to God and of appeal to God for a remedy.**

At first it seems in the gospel that that remedy is **Jesus’ healing ministry.** It is miraculous. He heals at a word, not long prayers, not incantations, not the application of any kind of medicine, just a word. That’s what the centurion believed, that **Jesus had the authority within himself to heal.** And you see here that he heals everything: demon possessed people freed at a word. And he cured all the sick of all illnesses of any kind. It would seem now that the promises of God are being fulfilled. But we know that in the life of Jesus, in spite of this authority and in spite of a very successful ministry, all still was not well. And although he did have a following, it was not momentous, not even the majority, not even a teeming minority, but **a small faithful band. Isn’t this strange?** Well, let’s face it, people are strange. In all the talk about what we need to do politically, socially, historically to remedy our ills, the real problem is basically us, because **we do not embrace the remedies God presents to us, and have never.** And we will

stew in our juices until we do.

Meanwhile even **Jesus was not exempt from the suffering of the world.** In fact the ill will, the wickedness, the malice that seethes within the human heart brought him to the cross. Seemingly that was the end everything, and so it is still believed by many people. But for those who believe in God that was not the end, because Jesus was raised up in the resurrection. It's very important that we always keep the two together, the cross and the resurrection, not just the resurrection, not just the cross, but the two together, because **the cross is the path, the gate, to the resurrection. It is by accepting our complete vulnerability, our complete helplessness, and relying totally on God that we can eventually get to where God is leading us. Along the way each day we have to take a stand: open to God or not?**