

Gifts from God Third Week of Easter Tuesday, April 17, 2018 8:15 AM Acts
7:51—8:1a; **Jn 6:30-35** (God may or may not use individuals.)

“Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.’”

Now this is about **a misunderstanding that many people get in the practice of religion.** These people, the crowd here, thought that Moses was the one who gave the manna. Jesus corrects them in saying, “No, it was not Moses, but my Father.” Now this is true in every case **when gifts come; they may come through the mediation of this person or that, but it’s always from the Father.**

Now I have been involved over the years with different prayer groups, and I’ve attended many **healing services**, and I see that same mistake in people. **They think that a particular person** is the answer to their problem, that somebody **has the power to heal them.** No, only God does. **God may or may not use individuals**, and some people may be very disposed to be used; that is, some people may give themselves to the Lord in a very generous way and, therefore, be very available to people, which is all very wonderful if they are called to that. But **if God wants to heal someone, God will heal that person. The idea that we have to find the right healer is absolutely wrong.** So I’ve even seen at services where there is, for example, several lines and people go one to one line of then to the next line and then to the next line. This is not having faith in God. That is really why it’s so sad because it shows there’s no real faith in God; **more there is a desperation and a clinging to some straw somewhere, and this passes for faith.** This is not faith, and that’s why this reading was given.

St. Paul when discussing the gifts of God uses the gift of healing. **The person who has the gift of healing is the one who has been healed.** That’s how he uses the actual word “gift of healing.” It is the one who is healed who has the gift of healing. It probably would be better English to say the “**gift of being healed,**” but that’s not what the Greek says. So it’s not the minister; **it is God, always. And the same with the sacraments.** It is God who is giving us Holy Baptism. It is Christ who is presenting himself in the Eucharist. **All this work is the work of God.**