BIBLE STUDY
February 5 and 8, 2024

<u>THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</u>
Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46
Mark 1: 40-45
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

1. **Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46**
    - Vv. 1-2: From the New American Bible, Revised Edition Notes: "These chapters deal with scaly or fungal infections. The older translation leprosy is misleading because it refers to not just one but several chronic and enduring skin diseases in human beings. The disease known as 'leprosy' (Hansen's disease) is not included among the descriptions in the chapter. Also, the term refers to fungal growths in fabrics and on the walls of houses. The reason these conditions, and not other disease, were considered unclean may be that they were quite visible, associated with death and traditionally connected with punishment for sin by God.
    - Vv. 44: The person is to present themselves to the priest and be declared unclean.
    - Vv. 45: The ripping of the garments and the unkempt hair are the activities of mourning at time of death.
    - Vv. 46: It was believed that the infection was communicable and so the infected person needed to be quarantined. Their cry of 'Unclean, unclean!' was to warn others of their condition.
    - Vv. 46: The person was cut off from the community, living in isolation.
2. **Mark 1: 40-45**
    - V.40: A person with leprosy: having a skin disease not necessarily Hansen's disease. The person with leprosy demonstrates deep faith by his kneeling and his begging for a cure. "If you wish" shows that he has faith in Jesus' power to heal.
    - V. 41: Jesus is moved with pity. His heart goes out to the man. It is not a condescending attitude but empathy. He feels the distress and the pain of the person with leprosy. Jesus confirms the person with leprosy's faith by saying, 'I do will it," The healing words are, 'Be made clean.'
    - V. 42: The disease is immediately cured. The word 'immediately' shows the power of Jesus' word.
    - V. 43: Jesus' warning is to assure that the man who was cured will fulfill the law of Moses and be declared clean by the priest. He is also to make the offering for his healing contained in the law of Moses.
    - V. 44: The familiar order not to tell anyone is to guard against people seeing Jesus simply as a miracle worker, to truly know Jesus means to have faith that sees him as the Son of God.
    - V. 45: Jesus' order for secrecy never seems to be kept. The persons who are healed cannot help but tell others what Jesus has done for them. Because of this, Jesus' fame spreads and the crowds seeking him begin

to prevent his freedom to move about. He ahs to withdraw to deserted places outside the towns and have people come to him.

3. **1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1**
    - Members of the church in Corinth believed that since they were in the Spirit and free of the Law, then they could do whatever they pleased. “Everything is lawful,” may have been a slogan of the faction of the community. Paul adds to it: “but not everything is helpful,” and “but not everything builds up.” If our exercise of freedom causes another believer scandal, then we should refrain from what we are doing so as not to scandalize our brother or sister. The overriding rule is concern for my brother and sister.
    - V. 31-32: Provided that it does not offend another, one can eat and drink whatever because everything comes from God. So, whatever we do, do it for the glory of God. But we must avoid giving offense and scandal to another. Harming the conscience of another will not give glory to God.
    - V. 33: We should imitate Paul’s desire to meet everyone where they are and then bring them along to Christ. I put limits on my own freedom for the sake of the well-being of my brothers and sisters.