

Genesis 17; 1. 9-10. 15-22.

Matthew 8: 1-4

The Lord appeared to Abraham and said, “El Shaddai, bear yourself blameless in my presence.” In one sentence God told Abraham the way forward for Abraham’s life and his future. He would establish His covenant with him through the birth of a son to be called Isaac. At 99 years old this seemed impossible. Abraham even laughed at the idea, but God insisted. Even Abrahams first son, born of a slave girl Hagar, would be rewarded. (All this not without trials of course, but possible through trust and belief.)

Then, in the Gospel, we hear of a man ‘seeking a cure for his Leprosy.’ He is clear in his request and believes that Jesus can, and will, heal him. “And he was cured at once.” Jesus then asked only one thing of the man. “Go and show yourself to the priest and make the offering practiced by Moses as evidence.” Abraham and the Leper represent what God is offering each of us. As the Psalm proclaims, “Indeed, thus shall be blest the man who fears the Lord (lives and believes in him because, with him and in him, all things are possible).”