



## Daily Mass Readings Tuesday, March 24th, 2020

**Readings: EZ 47:1-9,12  
Gospel: JN 5:1-16**

### *Reflections from Father Blessing*

The imagery from the first reading today shows the water trickling from the temple becoming a vast river which refreshes all things. It even turns the salt water fresh. That which flows from the temple is the grace from God's love, which refreshes everything it touches. The most hardened hearts can be refreshed with the love of God.

But there is a catch; you have to desire it in order to experience it. The man who was ill in the gospel today was complacent in his sickness. He had been ill for a long time and he sat next to the healing waters all the while. When asked if he wanted to be well, he didn't answer the question, but made excuses why he couldn't get to the font. It leads us to believe that maybe he didn't want to be well.

Why do you think that might be? Had he become comfortable being ill? It would have certainly given him an excuse to be unproductive. I am guessing that a lot of people in his life accepted it as a valid excuse as well. I wonder if they enabled him by doing everything for him. He might have gotten quite used to that. Can you imagine, if that is the case, the hidden anger he might have had toward Jesus for healing him? Notice he never thanked him. He didn't even know who it was that healed him. He certainly didn't seem joyful when the Pharisees called him out for carrying his mat on the Sabbath. Instead he turned on Jesus and said, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" After he comes across Jesus again, he went back and informed the Pharisees that it was Jesus who healed him. Even though he probably knew it, he wasn't concerned that Jesus would now be persecuted.

What sickness or sin have we become comfortable with in our lives? We all have some propensity to particular sins. What would our lives be without ours? What if tomorrow when we woke up the healing waters from the font of grace removed the temptation for our particular sin? Would we be happy or sad? What would we do with our time, if we didn't have to spend it either engaging in the sin or fighting it? How productive could we be, if we were healed? Would we give thanks or be silently disappointed?

