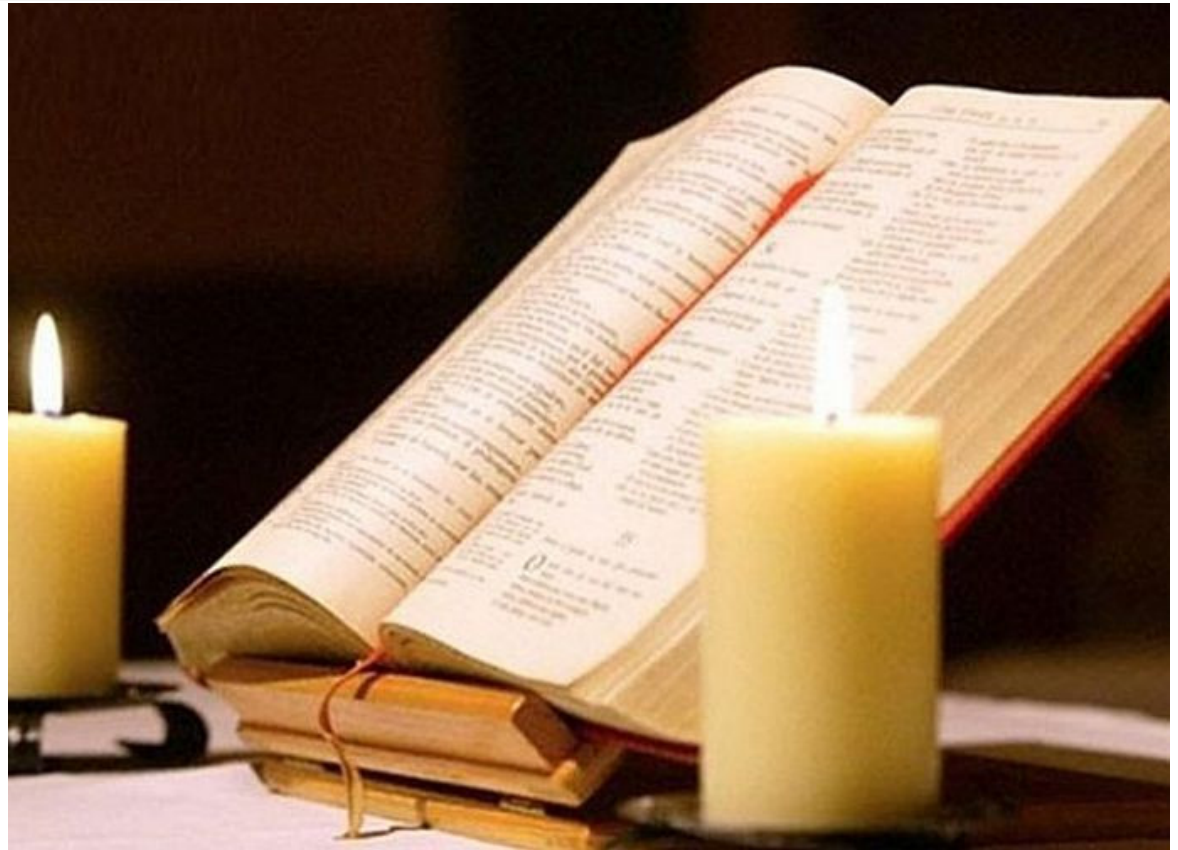


GOSPEL PEARLS

The miracle of the healed leper

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And a leper came to Jesus, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was

out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter. (Mark 1: 40-45)

The miracle of the healed leper exalts only the purification of the body, and not that of the spirit. In fact, we do not know whether the leper was able to take advantage of his healing to deepen his faith and thus achieve a lasting conversion. Miracles, indeed, don't always bring about real changes in our life but can even be obstacles. So let's stop complaining when the Lord seems not to answer our prayers. We must, instead, pray to our Father so that His will be done and not ours.