

## Readings for March 17, 2024

### **Luke 5:12-16**

While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came to him who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he bowed down with his face to the ground and begged him, "Teacher, if you are willing, you can make me clean." So he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing. Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him. Then he ordered the man to tell no one, but commanded him, "Go and show yourself to a priest, and bring the offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But the news about Jesus spread even more, and large crowds were gathering together to hear him and to be healed of their illnesses. Yet Jesus himself frequently withdrew to the wilderness and prayed.

### **Another Sacred Text**

Richard Foster

Solitude, I have discovered, requires silence and time alone, but it goes beyond both. Silence and withdrawal from others [can be] the foundation for solitude, but not the edifice itself. We enter solitude not in order to be away from people, but in order to hear the divine Whisper better. In stillness our false, busy selves are unmasked and seen for the imposters they truly are.