

## **LUKE 17:12-19 -- Ten Lepers Cleansed – “Where are the nine?”**

**6/18/16 Sat Morn Prayer**

**Luke 17:12-19** Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. [13] And they lifted up their voices and said, "**Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!**" [14] So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. [15] And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, [16] and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. [17] So Jesus answered and said, "**Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? [18] Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?**" [19] And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. **Your faith has made you well.**"

**Context/Biblical Background** – Jesus has been speaking with the apostles about forgiveness. They had just made the prayer request of “*Increase our faith*”. Now the scene changes to as He is on His way to Jerusalem and is passing through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

### **The Cleansing of Ten Lepers:**

#### **I. THE HEALING OF THE LEPERS: VS. 11-14**

- (vs. 11-14) The healing of the lepers.
- ***As He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers:*** It was not unusual for these lepers to congregate with one another. They were outcasts from society at large, and had no company other than other lepers – so, they *stood afar off*.
- ***Who stood afar off:*** They kept at a distance, because forbidden by law and custom to come near to those who were sound, for fear of infecting them. See [Leviticus 13:46](#); [Numbers 5:2](#); [2 Kings 15:5](#). (Clarke)
- ***Passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee:*** The words *dia meson* are best translated through the middle of, or between, referring to Jesus travel along the border between Samaria and Galilee. (Pate)
- ***And they lifted up their voices and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!:*** They came to Jesus together and they prayed together, even though they were a mixed group of Jews and Samaritans ([Luke 17:15-16](#)). Bonded by their misery, their national and other prejudices vanished as they came together in prayer.
- A common misfortune had broken down the racial and national barriers. In the common tragedy of their leprosy they had forgotten they were Jews and Samaritans and remembered only they were men in need. (Barclay)
- ***Go, show yourselves to the priests:*** It was remarkable that Jesus asked them to go to the priests while they were still lepers. This was truly stepping out in faith, as in putting on the new man even when we still look and feel like the old man.
- The one condition of healing was obedience. Ordered, they must obey. If He was master as they had cried He was, then let them prove their faith by their obedience. (Morrison)
- God highly honors this kind of faith, and makes it the instrument in his hand of working many miracles. He who will not believe till he receives what *he* calls a *reason for it*, is never likely to get his soul saved. The highest, the most sovereign *reason*, that can be given for *believing*, is that *God* has *commanded* it. (Clarke)
- ***And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed:*** Just as God blessed the faith of the lepers to step out as the new man even when they feel like the old, so will He bless our faith.
- It is as we go on the commanded road that we experience the commanded blessing. Let the Church obey the command of the Lord Jesus, and with enthusiasms evangelize the nations, and, *as she goes*, she will be healed. (Morrison)

#### **II. THE HEALING OF THE LEPERS: VS. 15-19**

- Only one out of ten of the lepers return to give thanks.

- ***And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God:*** Only one came back to give thanks; and he was the *unlikely* one - **a Samaritan**. And, though he was the only one, at least he was very **loud** about his thanks.
- All ten were willing to do a religious ceremony; that is go to the priest. Only one was filled with true praise and thanksgiving. External religious exercises are easy enough, and common enough; but the internal matter, the drawing out of the heart in thankful love, how scarce a thing it is! Nine obey ritual where only one praises the Lord. (Spurgeon)
- ***Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?*** Jesus *missed* the nine who did not return to give thanks. He wondered where they were. Jesus also notices our lack of gratitude.
- The question was asked, and it at once proves the value He sets upon the service of praise. One wonders whether it is not so that our Lord has been asking this question very constantly. (Morgan)
- Christ keeps count how many favors men receive from Him, and will call them to a particular account thereof. (Trapp)
- Lastly, if we work for Jesus, and we see converts, and they do not turn out as we expected, do not let us be cast down about it. If others do not praise our Lord, let us be sorrowful, but let us not be disappointed. The Savior had to say, *Where are the nine?* Ten lepers were healed, but only one praised Him. We have many converts who do not join the church; we have numbers of persons converted who do not come forward to baptism, or to the Lords Supper. Numbers get a blessing, but do not feel love enough to own it. (Spurgeon)
- We see in this man, grace entered his soul, and healed a far deeper and more dreadful leprosy there; and, therefore, led by that awakening grace in the heart, he had forever done with Jewish priests and legal sacrifices, and fled to Christ the author and finisher of his salvation.
- ***Your faith has made you well*** (whole, σωζω: Sozo; **to save**; to free from disease)

#### SUMMARY:

- We note the lepers' cry and the Lord's strange reply. We note the healing granted to obedient faith. We note the solitary instance of thankfulness. We note Christ's sad wonder at man's ingratitude and joyful recognition of 'this stranger's' thankfulness.
- This suggests that ingratitude is a very common sin. Of the many that receive mercy from God, there are but few, very few, that *return to give thanks* in a right manner (only *one in ten*), that render according to the benefit done to them.
- Notice how the mercies are doubled and sweetened to us when they are prayed in by the prayers of faith, and returned by the praises of faith.
- A sense of our spiritual leprosy should make us very humble whenever we draw near to Christ. It is enough to refer ourselves to the compassions of Christ, for they fail not. We may look for God to meet us with mercy, when we are found in the way of obedience.
- Only one of those who were healed returned to give thanks. It becomes us, like him, to be very humble in thanksgivings, as well as in prayers.
- Christ noticed the one who thus distinguished himself, he was a Samaritan. The others only got the outward cure, he alone got the spiritual blessing.

#### **Give Thanks** – Maranatha Music

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (2X)*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong", Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us (2X)*

*Give thanks (2X)*

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