
The Healing Of Ten Lepers

Luke 17:11-19

Luke is the only one of the **Gospel** writers who gives account of this event; **the cleansing and healing of ten lepers**. It is a very remarkable miracle; **TEN PEOPLE HEALED OF THE MOST DREADFUL DISEASE OF THAT DAY AT ONE TIME, AND IN ONE PLACE!** **Jesus** had healed other **lepers** during His earthly ministry, and such serves as a testimony that **He was and is God**, and that **He receives the outcasts!** The account opens with **Jesus** heading to **Jerusalem (verse 11)**. He was going there for the last time, and for the purpose of **laying down His life in the place of His sinful people!** He was going to **Jerusalem to finish the work for which He had come into this world!** As He made His way to the place of sacrifice, **“He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee” (verse 11)**. The fact is that the nearest way to get from **Galilee to Jerusalem** was by going through **Samaria**, and **Christ** had an appointment at **Jerusalem** that He must now keep; an appointment with **God’s** offended justice, an appointment of redemption for us and an appointment of death for Him! As He made His way toward **Jerusalem**; **“He entered into a certain village (this would put Him on the outskirts of this village) there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off” (verse 12)**. One of the reasons that **Jesus** went this way, at this time, was **to heal these ten lepers!**

I. THE TEN LEPERS

① **These Ten Men Had A Dreadful Disease:**

Leprosy was a disease that caused great **horror** and **disgust** in people! The diagnosis that one had **“leprosy”** had to be a crushing blow in **Bible** times, bringing one to a point of **desperation!** The diagnosis of **leprosy** meant that one would die **a slow and very painful death!** In time, the **leper’s skin would become hard, cracked, and full of sores and scabs!** Their **flesh would literally rot upon their bodies, fingers and toes would decay, and even fall off!** Their **voices would become very hoarse and raspy, their eyes bloodshot and burning, their noses sunken because of decaying cartilage, their tongues black, swollen, and ulcerated!** But this perhaps was not the worse part of being a **leper**; one would also be **excluded from their families and friends, excluded from worship and all activities of society!** They would have to wear certain dress so that they could be identified and anytime someone would begin to approach them they must cry out **“Unclean, Unclean”** **THEY WERE LITERALLY OUTCASTS WITH NO ONE TO HELP AS THEY WAITED FOR SURE DEATH!** For this reason; these **“ten men that were lepers”** were on the outskirts of the village, and **stood afar off!** **THESE TEN LEPERS, WERE MEN MOST MISERABLE!**

② **The Appearance Of These Ten Lepers And Their Cry To Christ:**

As **Jesus** was passing through **Samaria** and **Galilee** on His way to **Jerusalem**, He came into a particular town, and *“there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off” (verse 12)*. These men are **miserable**, they are **suffering** terribly, they are **outcasts**, they are **disgusting** and **loathsome** individuals, **with absolutely nothing to offer or merit Christ’s attention!** There they stand; ten of them, and they no doubt had heard of the **Person** and **works** of **Christ**, and seeing **Christ** approaching, and realizing their own desperate and urgent need, and believing that **Christ** could heal them; they *“lifted up their voices (in unison) and said, Jesus Master, have mercy on us” (verse 13)*. Their cry; *“Jesus Master”* was in recognition of His **authority!** Their plea; *“have mercy on us”* revealed their sense of **desperation**, **helplessness**, and **unworthiness** of **Christ’s** blessings, and that He was **merciful**, and **willing** and **able** to save them from their certain doom!

③ **What Jesus Did:**

“And when He saw them” (verse 14). **Jesus** *“saw them”* with their disease of **leprosy!** **Jesus** *“saw them”* in their **filthy**, **hopeless**, **deplorable** condition, with absolutely nothing to offer, and *“He said unto them”* **Jesus** spoke to them, while they were in their leprous condition; *“Go show yourselves unto the priests” (verse 14)*. He prescribed no medicine, no washing, no use of material means, He did not touch them, nor was their any spoken word for the **leprosy** to depart. He simply told them to go to the **priests**; *“Go show yourselves to the priests”* By this command, He gave them assurance that they would be healed, for this was the prescribed course of the Law (**Leviticus 14:1-3**). **IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE PRIEST TO INSPECT THE LEPER, AND TO LIFT THE BANISHMENT OF THE LEPER!** Following the command to *“Go show yourselves to the priests”* it is stated that *“they went”* (no doubt, believing that **Jesus** would somehow heal them of their leprosy). As *“they went they (all ten) were cleansed” (verse 14)*. **THE HEALING NO DOUBT WAS FELT, AND WAS EVIDENT!** It is stated in **verse 15** *“And one of them, when he saw that he was healed”* As he was going to the **priest**, perhaps he felt something and he looked upon his skin that had been full of **sores** and **scabs**, **AND THEY WERE ALL GONE! HIS SKIN HAD BEEN RESTORED, AND ALL PAIN AND DEFORMITY WERE GONE!** Seeing that he had been **healed**, that a **life-changing miracle had taken place**, he was **overwhelmed** at what the **Lord** had done for him, and with a heart filled with **humility**, **gratitude**, and **praise** that the **Lord** would bless him so, he *“turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks” (verses 15-16)*.

II. THESE LEPERS SERVE AS EXAMPLES OF INGRATITUDE AND GRATITUDE

① **The Nine Are An Example Of Ingratitude:**

When the one returned to worship and give thanks; **Jesus** asked; *“Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?” (verse 17)*. These are very **solemn**, **heart-searching**, **piercing** and **instructive** words. **NINE MEN BLESSED OF GOD, GOING**

THEIR WAY WITHOUT THE LEAST BIT OF THANKS! These “*nine*” like the other, saw that they had been cleansed, they could see that their sores and scabs were gone, and that they had been spared an agonizing death, **BUT THEY CONTINUED ON THEIR WAY! They did not duly consider what had been done for them! THEY RECEIVED A MARVELOUS BLESSING, BUT THEY DID NOT THINK TO THANK!** They went their way and lost sight of their Benefactor! These “*nine*” **lepers** did not have a proper perspective, they did not fully realize or appreciate what they had just received, **nor did they realize how unworthy they were to receive such a blessing!** The lesson here is; **THERE ARE FAR MORE WHO RECEIVE BLESSINGS THAN EVER GIVE THANKS FOR THEM!**

② **The One An Example Of Heartfelt Gratitude:**

One blessed **leper returned to give thanks!** This man fully realized that **Christ** had **delivered him from a dreadful plague!** This man fully realized that **he had received a healthy body!** This man fully realized that **he had been restored to society!** This man, said to himself “*I’m clean, I can go home and embrace my family for the first time since this curse came upon me*” But before he ever went home to embrace his family, before he went on living his life, **with a heart filled with humility, appreciation, thanksgiving and rejoicing** he “*fell down at His feet, giving Him thanks*” (**verses 16-17**). **THIS IS NOT SOME UNCLEAR AND VAGUE THANKS, BUT A THANKS GIVEN DIRECTLY TO THE LORD FOR SOMETHING SPECIFIC!** He **acknowledged** and **confessed** what the **Lord** had done! **WHAT AN EXAMPLE THAT THIS HEALED AND RESTORED LEPER LEAVES US!** All through the **Word of God** there is the exhortation to **give thanks unto God**. We read in **Psalm 50:14** “*Offer unto God thanksgiving*” In **Psalms 92:1** “*It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord*” In **Psalm 100:4** “*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name*” **Paul** spoke of the importance of giving thanks (**Ephesians 5:19-20; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 5:16-18**), and **Paul** wrote the words “*I thank God*” [**Romans 1:8; 7:25; I Corinthians 1:4, 14; 14:18; Philippians 1:3; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Thessalonians 1:3; I Timothy 1:12; II Timothy 1:3; Philemon 4**]. These verses not only deal with the expression and act of giving thanks, but the bigger issue of the attitude and spirit of thanks! **THIS IS THANKS-LIVING**, and involves an **inward emotion, and feeling, an inward disposition and inclination!** **THANKS-LIVING INVOLVES SEEING GOD CLEARLY AND WHAT WE TRULY DESERVE IN AND OF OURSELVES!**

Leprosy throughout the **Word of God** is a **type of the dreadful plague of sin**, and the miraculous healing brought about by the **Lord** is a display of His grace and mercy, manifesting that **HE ALONE CAN HEAL THE DREAD DISEASE OF SIN!** Those who have been **saved by the grace of God** have experienced a miracle far greater than the healing of **leprosy!** **FALL AT HIS FEET WITH THANKSGIVING**, for **His great love for your soul!** His love was the cause of Him sending His Son into the world on our behalf! Think of how His love **bears with our shortcomings, our transgressions, our**

coldness, our hardness of heart. In spite of our ungratefulness, our wanderings, our sinful thoughts, our rebellions, our indifference, our pride, and self-will, He continues to love us! FALL AT HIS FEET WITH HEARTS FILLED WITH GRATITUDE, for **He chose us before the foundation of the world to be saved!** It is He that **has given us everlasting life!** It is He that has **called us to Himself!** It is He that **has washed away the filth of our sins!** It is He that **has forgiven us, and justified us!** It is He that **has adopted us into the family of God!** It is He that **has made reconciliation between us and God!** It is He that **delivered us from the miry clay of sin!** It is He that **delivered us from darkness, and the wrath to come!** It is He that **has changed our future! FALL AT HIS FEET WITH REVERENCE AND PRAISE!**