



STORY

The Ten Lepers - Luke 17:11-19

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, Jesus revealed Himself as the Promised Messiah by healing the deaf, the blind, and the lepers. I ask that Jesus' healing touch would be revealed in my life. More than this, I ask that I may see and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. Then only can I teach these children whom You have entrusted to my care, that Jesus is their Savior. Amen.

VOCABULARY

leprosy - a skin disease that often resulted in fingers and toes falling from the body

Samaritan - the people who lived between Galilee and Judah who were hated by the Jews

OUTER AIM

Jesus Heals the Lepers

INNER AIM

I Give Thanks Because Jesus Healed Me From the Leprosy of Sin

BACKGROUND

Jesus began His final journey to Jerusalem. Matthew and Mark tell us that during this last journey great multitudes followed Jesus, and that He healed them and taught them. Jesus' journey took Him along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. Luke alone records the account of the healing of the ten lepers. This journey set the stage for Jesus' suffering and death in Jerusalem.

STUDENT PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I am covered with the leprosy of sin. I am unclean in Your sight because of my personal sinfulness. May Jesus cleanse me from the leprosy of sin with His holy blood. I thank You for Your healing power in my life. Amen

PRESENTATION

At the outset of His journey as Jesus entered a certain village, He met ten lepers. One of them was a Samaritan. Jewish law required these lepers to remain outside the village and far from contact with Jesus or any other person. Leprosy was considered a mortal disease. Lepers were commanded not to make contact with any other people or even to bear the appearance of mourners. When a leper came into contact with another person, he was to cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!" Rabbinic law declared that only a descendant of Aaron could proclaim a leper clean or unclean. In the Old Testament physical defects such as leprosy were seen as a representation of a spiritual uncleanness.

These ten lepers begged Jesus to heal them out of mercy. Without a touch or even a command to be healed, Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priest as healed. And in their desperate state, the lepers obeyed Christ's command even before they had actually experienced healing. So great was their faith in this Messiah! And as they went, they were healed, all ten of them.

Of the ten equally recipient of this healing, nine Jews continued on their way to the priest to be pronounced healed and whole. Who could blame them? Only one of the ten, a Samaritan, returned to Jesus and with a loud voice glorified God. The grateful Samaritan, of all people, hurried back and with a loud voice of thanksgiving praised God. He fell at the feet of Him to Whom he gave thanks. This Samaritan received

more than new bodily life and health; he found spiritual life and healing. He gave thanksgiving to Jesus for his healing and life.

Why did the nine Jews not return? It probably was the same thing that doomed the nation of Israel. They were more interested in the things of men than the things of God. They were obsessed with the world. The most important thing to them was their physical healing. Like Old Testament Israel, the many blessings of God led to a failure to acknowledge the true gifts of God. They, like so many in their day did not see the spiritual import of Jesus' miracles.

So Christ spoke to the Samaritan, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you whole." Only the Samaritan was totally whole. He found in Jesus the forgiveness of sins and gave thanks to Jesus.

APPLICATION

Most of the people of Jesus' day were interested in Jesus only in terms of what they could get from Him. They followed Jesus eagerly to see or experience a miracle of healing. They were more interested in what was in it for them. If your pastor had the true gift of healing, the church would be full of people looking for relief from their diseases. If you could get rich following Jesus, people would be willing to pay lots of money to learn the secret.

People do not realize that there is a fundamental uncleanness that has to be taken care of, and that is the sin that infects us all. Some of our hymns compare leprosy to sin that makes us unclean and unwhole in the sight of God. Jesus came not just to temporarily heal us of our diseases; Jesus came to save us from our sins. This is the reason for Jesus' life and death. This is the gift Jesus gives us today.

When healed, we should not be surprised that only one out of ten returned to say "Thank you" to Jesus. Parents often have to remind children to say "thank you" when they receive a gift. We often forget to thank Jesus for all the things He does for us. The nation of Old Testament Israel reveals the sad principle of human behavior that the more God gives us, the less we return thanks to Him. Thanksgiving is an acknowledgement that everything we have comes from God. God has given us so much.

It might be helpful to have the children list the blessings both spiritual and material that they have received from God. Then have them list ways that they can show their thanksgiving to God.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Psalm 103:1-5 - "Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! {2} Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: {3} Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, {4} Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, {5} Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Psalm 136:1 - "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

Philippians 4:6 - "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

HYMN CHOICES

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain - THL #149 v.2

Now Thank We All Our God - TLH #36

Let All Things Now Living - Worship Supplement #792