

## Jesus Heals Ten Lepers Lk. 17:11-19

### Introduction:

During this time of year, many people take time to thank God for the gifts that He has given them. While it is good to be thankful to God, many people will only be thankful during certain parts of the year. We need to be thankful to God throughout the entire year, not just during a holiday.

Today we are going to look at the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers. First, we will notice the details of the story that will help us understand it a little better. Next, we will look at the nine who were unthankful (and make applications for our lives). And finally, we will notice the one who returned to give thanks to Jesus for the miracle that Jesus performed (and again make applications for our lives).

### I. Recap of the story.

- A. Notice details of the disease of leprosy.
  - 1. Lev. 13-14 gives the Law of Moses concerning the leper.
  - 2. The leper was to be removed from the camp.
  - 3. The leper was to cover his face and cry “unclean, unclean” whenever someone approached him.
  - 4. Examples of leprosy in the Bible.
    - a. Moses leading Israel out of Egypt (Ex. 4:6-7)
    - b. Naaman (II Kings 5)
  - 4. Leprosy was, at that time, not curable except by a miracle from God.
  - 5. Notice the result of leprosy.
    - a. Limbs (fingers, toes, nose, etc.) would begin to rot and eventually fall off.
    - b. This disease was very painful until the end.
    - c. The end result of leprosy was a slow, miserable death.
  - 6. These ten men in Luke 17 were going through a miserable period of their lives.
- B. These lepers requested that Jesus have mercy on them (17:13).
  - 1. They knew the condition they were in and they wanted relief.
  - 2. They wanted to be healed by Jesus.
  - 3. It is not like Jesus healed them against their will, which makes their reaction to the healing even more significant.
- C. Only one came back to thank Jesus for what He did.
  - 1. The others left and never thanked Jesus for what He did.
  - 2. The one that came back was a Samaritan.
    - a. Note the relationship between a Samaritan and a Jew.
      - 1) Assyria resettles Samaria with Gentiles after Israel was taken captive (II Kings 17).
      - 2) II Kgs. 17:24 - Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria

instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

- b. This hatred makes this story all the more powerful for us today.

## II. Nine of the men were unthankful for what Jesus did for them.

- A. Nine of them did not return to give God thanks for what He did.
1. The Bible does not say that they were unthankful, but we can know this by their actions (or rather, their lack of action).
  2. It seems outrageous that they would not seek Jesus after He saved their lives.
  3. Remember, they even requested that He heal them.
- B. Ingratitude is a great sin before God.
1. **Rom. 1:21** - because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
  2. **II Tim. 3:1-2, 5** - But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: {2} For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...{5} And from such people turn away!
  3. Remember the great things that Jesus had done for them.
    - a. They had been banished from the camp (according to the Law of Moses) and were going to die separated from their families.
    - b. However, Jesus healed them all.
    - c. Even in this great miracle, they were not thankful.
- C. We must be careful today because we can be ungrateful as well.
1. Jesus has done tremendous things for us (as we will look at in a few moments), and sometimes we do not seek Him to thank Him.
  2. For example, how many times do we pray for someone to get better and then do not thank God when they recover?
  3. There is nothing worse than an ungrateful person.
    - a. Whenever we do something nice for someone, it is always good to be thanked.
    - b. When we are not thanked, we are sometimes tempted to withhold kindness from that person.
    - c. We need to remember to be like Jesus, and still do good to others, even if they are not thankful toward us.
      - 1) Jesus has done, and still does, great things for us even if we are unthankful.
      - 2) **Luke 6:27-35**
      - 3) Notice especially the reason for doing good in **Lk. 6:35** - **For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.**
- D. Jesus healed these lepers even though nine of them were ungrateful for what He did.

### III. One Samaritan returned to thank Jesus for healing him.

- A. Only one of the lepers returned to thank Jesus for what He did.
  - 1. This one was a Samaritan.
  - 2. Remember, Samaritans hated Jews.
  - 3. Notice what this Samaritan did when he returned to Jesus (17:15-16).
  - 4. This man, just like the other nine, was under a death sentence; but Jesus healed him.
  - 5. This Samaritan demonstrated his thankfulness for what Jesus did for him.
- B. We need to always be thankful for what God has done for us.
  - 1. Eph. 5:20 - giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - 2. Phil. 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!
  - 3. Col. 3:15 - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
  - 4. In fact, Paul says that he is thankful for all of the churches and individuals to whom he wrote.
  - 5. We ALWAYS need to be thankful.
- C. Notice some things that we can be thankful for.
  - 1. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.
  - 2. We can be thankful that God provides our physical needs.
  - 3. We can be thankful most of all for Christ and the sacrifice that He made on the cross for us.

Conclusion:

Nine were not thankful for what Jesus did for them. One returned to thank Jesus. Which group are we in?

Today, are you thankful for what Jesus did for you on the cross? Are you thankful for the hope that he offers to us?