

## 11/30/03 – “THE TEN LEPERS” - Luke 17:11-19

We are to have a thankful heart to God, not just for “winds of prosperity” but **for His love** in all circumstances

Can you imagine if God didn't love you? – Or if God only loved you as much as you love Him?

The Psalms are full of “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good...His lovingkindness is everlasting”

In Jesus' day leprosy was seen as a sign of God's displeasure & judgment...they were considered unclean & were ostracized

Jesus didn't heal the 10 lepers in Galilee (His home) nor in Jerusalem (His church)...but rather on the way...in the field

**Matt. 13:24-30, 37 - God is the sower, the Sons of Kingdom are the seed, and the world is the field**

God is sowing us (sons of kingdom) into the world – Are we sowable into our culture? Are we available? Are we willing?

Jesus was always about His Father's business & many things happened outside “the prayer meeting”...**on the way**

### **AMAZING HEALINGS**

Luke 17:12 – The lepers stood at a distance from Jesus as he was passing – Required to by Jewish law

In our sinful state, we are like lepers standing at a distance afraid we will be judged unworthy, too many sins, not good enough etc.

Apostle Peter saw himself as a leper...“Depart from me for I am a sinful man.” The glory of God makes us aware of our sinfulness

If we are not aware of our sinfulness we will not be able to grasp His love – Without Christ our spiritual condition like lepers' physical condition

We are lost without Him, undone & hopeless – We too must cry out as the ten lepers

The lepers lifted their voices & asked for mercy...they did not ask to be healed...The Lord knows what to do

Sometimes we just need to ask for mercy...not specific things – God's mercy is all they needed

Jesus never heals in the same way...He didn't have a system or technique, but rather a relationship with the Father

Vs. 14 – Jesus told them to “show yourselves to the priests”...**As they were going they were cleansed**

Similar to the story of Naaman who was cleansed in obedience – 2 Kings 5:1-14

We don't get blessing before obedience – **Obedience releases the blessing**

**If we do what we can, then God will do what we cannot** - Go show yourselves to the Lord – **Let God heal**

John 16:33 - *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”* God can heal your marriage, your family, your life...don't be afraid, but cry out like the leper for mercy?

### **A THANKFUL LEPER IS RARE**

Vs. 15 – **One of them** came back glorifying God in a loud voice, fell on his face at His feet – **the other nine kept on going**

Look at the one grateful leper...He was **intentional** – He purposely turned back to thank & glorify God

Former scarred vocal cords free to glorify God & praise His name...with a loud voice

He fell on his face at His feet full of humility – Proper focus & attitude of heart – **Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

The nine warn us that **ingratitude is a very common sin** – very easy to forget the benefits of Lord (Psalm 103)

A grateful heart often shows up in unlikely people - It was a Samaritan (a double outcast) not a Jew who turned back to give thanks

The Lord didn't revoke the healing of the other nine – They just missed His bigger purpose of redemption & relationship

The Lord emphasizes His pleasure with the one who gave thanks & **he alone was made whole!**

All were healed, not all were made whole – The Samaritan leper found not only His healing but also His Healer, Savior & Lord

*“Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine – where are they? Were none found who turned back to give glory to God, except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Rise, and go your way; your faith has made you well.”* Luke 17:17-19