

Ten Lepers Luke 17 Verses 12-19

Lu 17:12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: **13** And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. **14** And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. **15** And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, 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** And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? **18** There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. **19** And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

Jesus is traveling to Jerusalem and "**he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.**" He is met by ten men who were lepers, who according to tradition stood afar off, because of their leprosy. "**which stood afar off:**" This phrase gives us the picture; we, who are sinners, should recognize our own sinfulness, our leprosy, and not approach unto our blessed Saviour in self-righteousness.

We notice that they all called him Master, acknowledging that he was above them in authority. They ask for mercy, only. The text does not say they asked to be healed. They, in their destitution, knew that what they needed was God's mercy. Also, as they called Jesus Master, they are acknowledging that he knows their every need. How often do we bring our laundry list of wants to Jesus in prayer, forgetting that what we really need is mercy?

Jesus tells them to go to the temple and see the priests, which is telling them; go and fulfill the commandments of the law concerning leprosy, and the restoration process after they have been healed. They continued on their way. One of them, the Samaritan, notes that he, and they, are cleansed, meaning they have been healed of their leprosy. This is a personal revelation to the Samaritan that Jesus not only healed his body, but also, Jesus has regenerated his heart and soul. How do we know this?

This Samaritan, realizing that Jesus has cleansed him, returns to where Jesus is, glorifying God as he goes. He falls at the feet of Jesus giving thanks, and praise, to Jesus for his healing, which includes the restoration, of the ability to be with his family again, and a new life of fellowship God. How do we know this? Because the Samaritan is not only cleansed, but he is also made whole. Whole means complete, which includes the cleansing of the body and the cleansed soul, with the addition of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

What lesson can we learn from this incident? The first lesson: Jesus Christ has power to heal such diseases that man cannot heal and the power to cleanse us of our sins. The second lesson: God, in his infinite mercy and grace, has compassion on the elect and the non-elect. What do you mean? How many lepers were healed? Ten. How many of the healed returned to Jesus? One. Wherefore, we learn the lesson, each, of these ten lepers who were healed, had the same opportunity to return to the one who had healed their mortal bodies. But their hearts and souls were not affected, wherefore, they had no inclination to return to Jesus and even give him thanks. God's mercy and grace is poured out upon all people, whether they recognize the source of their blessing or not. Scripture teaches us: **Mt 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."** The sad part of this is: the evil, and the unjust, do not recognize the blessings and mercy of God, which are being manifested in their lives.

Another lesson: the Samaritan was so affected, by the miraculous work of Jesus, that he turned from "his way," and returned to where Jesus was to give him thanks and praise. We pause to make a point here: Jesus came into the way they were going. They did not find Jesus, rather, Jesus found them by taking his trip to Jerusalem in a way to cross their path. Just as scripture teaches us in: **Joh 4:4 "And he must needs go through Samaria."** Why, to bring salvation to the Samaritan woman, and many others, just as he brought salvation to this Samaritan leper that was healed. How do we know this Samaritan was saved? By the word of Jesus "**thy faith hath made thee whole.**" Jesus always seeks out those, whom God the Father gave him to save, and gives them newness of life in Christ.

There is no doubt in my mind that this Samaritan was a chosen vessel unto God. Surely, this miraculous work, of salvation by grace, had such an effect on his life, that he was willing to forsake "his way," and turn from "his way" to be with Jesus. It is the picture of a born-again child of God, who is made willing to turn from their

own way and seek to be where Jesus is. Why? So, they can give thanks and praise to God. So, they can fall at the feet of Jesus Christ. So they can thank him, for resurrecting them, from their unsaved state of dead in trespasses and sins, to a life of fellowship with God.

Understand, if your eyes are opened to know that your sins are forgiven, meaning you have been cleansed from all unrighteousness before God the Father, by the finished work of Jesus on the cross; you will be like this Samaritan. You will want to turn to Jesus and give praise to God, for choosing you unto salvation; and praise to Jesus, for making it manifest in your life.

This is why we are told in: **Php 2:12 "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."** This is exactly what the Samaritan did. He, after being healed, sought out Jesus. He worked out his salvation, here in time, by putting Christ on display, so all would know, of the miraculous work of grace which had happened to him, by the power of Christ. Once a person has been born-again; they have the responsibility to put Christ on display. How do we do this? By living our lives in accordance with "**thus saith the Lord.**"

We do this by glorifying God with a "**loud voice,**" as the Samaritan did. What does a loud voice mean? Does it mean we are to shout or proclaim loudly? Sometimes it does. However, I believe; the loudest voice of praise we can give to Christ is simply being all that is entailed in bearing the name of a Christian, which means to be a follower of Jesus. We often meet people in life and they, nor anyone else, need tell us they are a Christian. They simply exude Christian in all they say and do, and you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in them.

There is a difference in being a child of God and a Christian. What do you mean? You cannot be a true Christian unless you are a Child of God. However, to be a Christian means that you do like this Samaritan, you turn from "your way" and follow Jesus. To be a Christian means you have become a disciple of Christ, which entails bearing witness of Jesus, and by living "**thus saith the Lord,**" in church fellowship.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that we bear the marks of thy salvation. We give you thanks, and praise, for establishing our land of promise here, the church of salvation by the grace of God. Loud our Hallelujahs we sing, to thy blessed and holy name. Amen!