

**Does God
“Keep
Receipts”
On Us?
Luke 17:11-18**



Observations

The Urban Dictionary - On Line Dictionary of Cultural Phrases

Keeping Receipts - The mental diligence of storing the evidence of another's behavior, should they ever need it in the future

Ex. "Brother Johnson has been "keeping receipts" on Brother Smith's consistent absences from worship in an effort to hold him accountable.

So the question is: Does God "keep receipts" on our Thankfulness and hold us accountable for a lack of it?

The Story, Luke 17:11-18

- **Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem and was met by 10 men who had an incurable disease known as Leprosy, which would literally eat up a person's skin, and for which there was no known treatment**
- **According to Numbers chapter 5, because of its ease of infectivity, people who had it were commanded to isolate themselves (socially-distance) from the nation of Israel to prevent the spread of the disease**
- **People with Leprosy were commanded to let others around them know when approached, that they had the disease by crying out, "unclean, unclean," to prevent the population from making contact with them. It was easily spread from person to person. Leviticus 13:45-46**



Leprosy Was a Disease of the Skin and Peripheral Nerves

Leprosy would eat up a person's skin and nervous tissue until they eventually died



Leprosy Had Many Social Ramifications

- **If you had it you had to isolate; live alone, Lev. 13:**
- **If you had it you were “unemployable!”**
- **If you had it you were reduced to constantly begging for a living, totally dependent on others**
- **If you had it, many of the greetings you now take for granted could not be initiated (hugs, usual rides with relatives, handshakes, holiday visits were off limits). It spread by droplet contact. You were marginalized and written off from society.**
- **So, in this story you have 10 men that were socially isolated from their society who met Jesus, standing at a distance, as required by law**

The Lepers Cried, “Jesus, Master Have Mercy On Us!”



Ten Lepers

- At this point in the story, it is not mentioned that out of the ten lepers one was a Samaritan
- A Samaritan was a “mixed race Jew” (African American)
- There was a mutual hostility between Jews and Samaritans (They forbid marrying and worshipping with each other)
- So, why would this Samaritan leper have a relationship with these Jewish lepers?
- I believe that the disease itself triumphed the social divide that existed (misery loves company)
- If everyone is sick, you have no bragging rights

Did You Know That God Asks Us To Call On Him For Mercy?

"... fulfill your vows to the Most High and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me." Psalms 50:15

"This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles." Psalms 34:6

"The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all." Psalms 34:19

Whatever Your Problem Is, Jesus Says Call On Him!

He Will Do What's Best, Not What's Preferred

Observations

- Jesus had compassion, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." This was a commandment, Leviticus 13:18-23
- Does it seem strange to you that Jesus would send these ten lepers to the priest with their leprosy still intact?

This Was a Test!

- Would they walk away from Jesus with the leprosy still intact, but just believing in His Word alone?
- Don't we follow Jesus based on His Word alone?
- Isn't our promise of Salvation based on His Word alone?

John 6:63, Mark 16:15-16, 1Peter 3:21



“As they went, they were cleansed.”

Imagine the joy of these people with leprosy being able to return to their families and society again

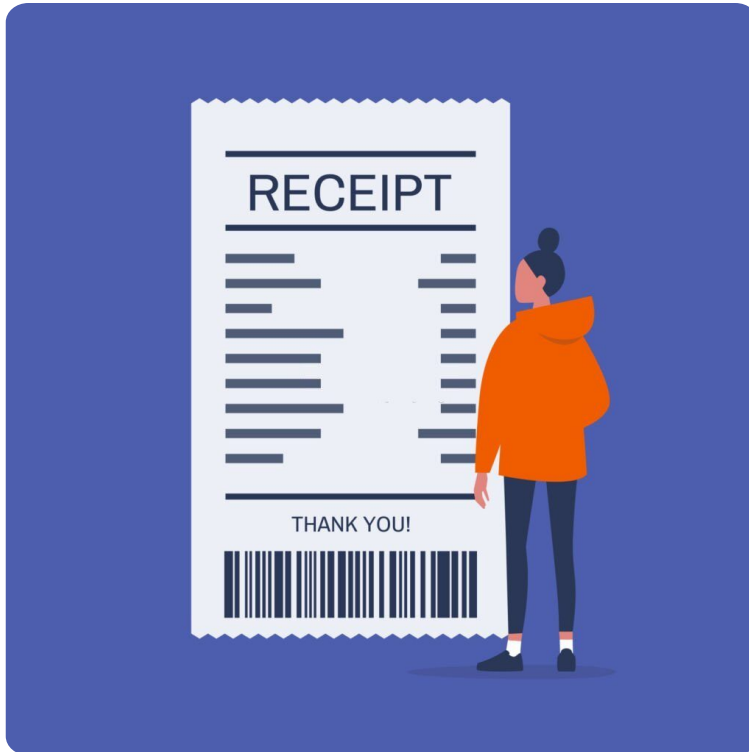
BUT

Out of the ten lepers who were healed, only one came back and thanked Him graciously, throwing himself at Jesus’ feet

Jesus asked him, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?”




That Means That Jesus “Kept All Ten Receipts!”



- Isn't it ironic that the Jewish lepers who were raised to thank God DON'T, and the Samaritan who normally wouldn't associate with Jesus is the one that does!
- The nine lepers were so impressed with the blessing that they ignored from whom it came! (Jesus felt unappreciated)
- Does that which is external outweigh IN OUR HEARTS that which is spiritual? (We revel in the gift, not the giver)



What Do We Learn About God's Receipts?

- **When we cry out to God, He Hears us individually. God is well aware of the misery in our plight, Psalms 34:19, "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him*"**
 - **A child of God does not have the "license" to ignore or underappreciate Jesus after being delivered, as if we were "owed something better!" He expects more thanks from us since we already are supposed to realize whose we are.**
 - **The fact that the sun and rain blesses everyone should not diminish the blessings God gives anyone (remember a lot of people woke up today, some did not)**
 - **Do we need to experience the "depths of depravity," before acknowledging God's Grace?**
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What Do We Learn About God In This Story?

- **God considers our relationship with Him "personal" He knows how and the who of affliction**
- **God is well aware of OUR misery and difficulties**
- **A child of God does not have the "license" to ignore or underappreciate Jesus after being delivered. We are not owed "a life of ease." In fact, because we are His we should be more thankful**
- **Do we need to experience the, "depths of depravity" before we consistently begin living, "a life of Thanksgiving?"**
- **Racial differences don't deter God's blessings or His appreciation for Thankfulness, Acts 10:34**

God Keeps “Good Receipts” Too!

Well done thy good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee ruler over many things; enter now into the joy of the Lord.

Matthew 25:21



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38