

**Well Thanks “a Lot”!
Luke 17:11-19**

Observations

- **This story has always tugged at my heartstrings because I have wondered if I resembled the 9 ungrateful lepers to God**
- **I believe that Luke penned this story about Jesus to warn us of the dangers of living and “feeling deserving” of God’s blessings.**
- **When you are, “the children of the covenant,” there is an unwritten rule that we expect to take effect:
Since God is our Father, we live with “entitlement!”**
- **The question is: Do we thank God continuously for His grace and mercy, or do we feel entitled to what we receive believing that, “membership has its expected privileges!”**

Observations

- Imagine for a moment what it must have been like to be a Leper in Jesus' day
- A slow, progressive, disfiguring, deadly bacterial infection for which there was no cure
- Because the disease affected your nervous system, areas on your body that had no sense of feeling (hands, feet). You could easily get burned or cut, or infected, because you couldn't feel the things that hurt you and quickly pull away from them
- Because the disease was debilitating and contagious, you had to follow certain instructions; Leviticus 13:43-46:
- If Leprosy was suspected: *The priest shall examine him, and if he finds ... has the appearance of Leprosy, he is a leprous man. He is unclean ... and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.*

Think About Living With a Leper Diagnosis

- **You were shunned and isolated from your community**
- **You were never to be touched by anyone**
- **No hugs, kisses, handshakes, or holiday meals together**
- **They were commanded to wear torn clothes (identification)**
- **People would avoid running into you (children ran away)**
- **It was a life sentence to poverty and exile (no job, no disability income)**
- **The only friends you had were others who looked like you and had the disease that you had**

**The
Disease
of
Leprosy
Instructions**

**Keep Hair
Unkept**

**Wear
disheveled
clothes**

**Yell “unclean”
when
approached**





- So ten lepers who were slowly decaying and dying, met Jesus as He was going into a village between Samaria and Galilee
- They cried out with a loud voice, *“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”* Mercy is relief from punishment you are owed but don’t receive
- It was generally felt that all bad consequences were as the result of having done bad things (John 9:2)
- They cried out for mercy from Jesus, but they were forbidden to come near him

What Do We Know About These Ten Lepers?

- There is one thing we know about every child of God:

Your Faith Is Tested In Times Of Desperation!

- In the army there is a saying: There are no atheists in Foxholes! (Crises make us Godly)





- **But how long does our faith last when the bad condition doesn't let up?**
- **Does your tension turn to anger because there is no relief in sight?**
- **“Where is God now?” After a while are you angry with God? “I thought”**
- **Where is your God when you're hurting?**

Jesus' Answer to Them Is Somewhat Surprising

He Doesn't Answer Them As In Previous Miracles

- He doesn't ask them if they really wanted to be healed
- He doesn't interrogate their faith
- He doesn't touch them with His hands
- He doesn't make mud with His spit and rub it on their skin. He simply says:

“Go and show yourselves to the priests”

- He basically tells them to follow the procedures already outlined (Leviticus 13)
- It's like saying, ***“Go through the proper channels.”***

Here Is the Interesting Part

- All ten lepers followed Jesus' instructions
- They didn't criticize Jesus, *"We've already done that." "Why that's a waste of our time!"*
- Notice that the Bible says, *"As they went, they were cleansed."* **AS THEY WERE OBEYING, THEY WERE HEALING!**
- **THE REAL HEALING COMES WITH THE OBEYING!**



Now Imagine What The Lepers Experienced While Walking to the Priest!

- **Their limp down the road changed to a regular walk**
- **As they touched their faces they no longer felt scars or plaques**
- **As they unwrapped their bandages they were no longer disfigured**
- **Fingers that used to be crooked, now straight**
- **Imagine how they felt walking into their own homes and mingling with their families again**



Only One of the Cleansed Lepers Came Back to Thank Jesus

- Jesus asked that one, *“Where are the nine?”*
- **Why Didn't the Others Return? (Why wouldn't we? What are our usual excuses?)**
- *“I'll wait to see if the cure was real”*
- *“I probably never had real leprosy, that's why it went away”*
- *“I gave credit to the priest rather than Jesus”*
- *“I took credit for the faith that I had to have to heal”*
- *“I would have healed anyway with time”*
- *“I just followed the instructions. No gratitude necessary for anyone else, but me”*

Here Is a Story That Explains My Point

- A lady went to see her doctor one afternoon; and he was way behind in his schedule, which put her behind.
- She had to pick up a prescription before the pharmacy closed, then was late getting her baby from the babysitter
- She had to get home and prepare supper before Wednesday Night Bible class, but first she had to get some essentials from Walmart
- As she circled the Walmart for a good parking space, the windows of heaven opened up and a down pour of rain began





- She began to talk to the Lord and said, *“Lord you know I usually don’t bother you, but you know what kind of day I’ve had.” “Could you please find me a parking space, and one close to the building, so I don’t get wet.”*
- Just as she finished her last words she saw the back-up lights of a car next to the handicapped parking spaces signal that it was about to come out; Best spot in the whole lot.
- She drove straight for it, pulled in the space and said: *“Never mind Lord, something just opened up!”*
- You see when it’s judged to be coincidental you don’t have to waste time being thankful

**Could It Be Possible That All
Nine of Them Never Gave a
Thought to the Possibility That
Jesus Might Have Had
Something to Do With Their
Healing?**

**Why Weren't They So Overcome
With Joy That They Couldn't
Help But Come Back?**

What About the Nine?

- If human nature was a factor with them, I think that as children of God, they felt entitled to be healed
- Sometimes when we feel we don't deserve what has already happened to us; when we are delivered, we feel that we only received what we were due
- When you are children of the covenant like the nine were, and we are, you are tempted to feel that God owed us what we received; Hebrews 8
- The Samaritan, on the other hand, was overwhelmed with the magnitude of what Jesus had done for him. He had lived the life of an outcast, and felt physically unworthy, but grateful

As I Close, I Have Some Thought Questions That Are Personal

- **Do you have a tendency to take the blessings that God has given you for granted? Do you feel entitled?**
- **Is your relationship with God based on how well life is treating you at any given moment? Does your love for God depend on your situation?**
- **Or do you choose to consciously be thankful to God and express your gratitude, which can lift you above the moment and allow you to feel JOY no matter what is happening around you.**
- **“After All The Things I’ve Been Through, I Still Have Joy.”**

***Gratitude is Our
Protection
Against Spiritual
Entitlement!***

Ephesians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love

- Without Blame?
- ***“But I’m a filthy rag” Isaiah 64:6***

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away

How Are We Without Blame?

1) By Initially Contacting the Blood of Jesus Christ

Acts 20:28- *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves....”*

Galatians 3:27- *“For ye are all the children of GOD....”*

Our Baptism washed away our sins, Acts 22:16

2)By Remaining in Contact With the Blood of Jesus

1 John 1:7-9 *“But if we walk in the light as He...”*

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