

Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy

Luke 17¹¹⁻¹⁹

Warm Up Question(s) – Choose one

- What is the closest you have come to experiencing a miracle-like healing?
- Who is the most grateful person you know (or have known)?

Cultural Background

In this story Jesus meets a group of 10 men with leprosy.¹ Due to their disfiguring (and possibly contagious) disease, lepers were considered “unclean” and were required to keep a distance from others (Lev. 13^{1-3, 45-46}; Num. 5²⁻³). Only after being declared healed and “clean” by a priest² could a leper re-enter society (Lev 14¹⁻⁷).

Discovering the Word

- 1) **Read Luke 17:11-19.** Where was Jesus travelling to and why (*cf.* Luke 9⁵¹)? Who does he meet on the way?
- 2) What do you think it was like: for a person to have leprosy?³ for his family & friends?
- 3) Why did Jesus send the lepers to the priests rather than heal them on the spot?
- 4) Why do you think all but one of the lepers failed to come back and thank Jesus?
- 5) What is significant about the man who did return to thank Jesus?
- 6) What does the manner of his thanks (v.16) display and say?
- 7) Which of the following can you relate to (how so)?
 - a) The pain of a physical ailment
 - b) The pain of social barriers
 - c) Being more interested in what God can do for me than in God himself
 - d) Neglecting to thank God
 - e) Neglecting to thank others
- 8) Who do you need to thank for something they have done for you?

<input type="radio"/> Jesus	<input type="radio"/> a friend	<input type="radio"/> a pastor	<input type="radio"/> other: _____
<input type="radio"/> my parents	<input type="radio"/> a teacher	<input type="radio"/> a coach	
<input type="radio"/> my spouse	<input type="radio"/> a doctor	<input type="radio"/> a mentor	
- 9) How do you express your gratitude to Jesus?
- 10) How can this group pray for you?

¹ Leprosy (Greek *lepra*) in the New Testament times was a general word for human skin diseases which may have included the disease we now refer to as “Hansen’s disease” but was broader (e.g. psoriasis, eczema, seborrhea, etc.). *Anchor Bible Dictionary* 4:278

² The priests were responsible for the community’s spiritual and some of their physical health.

³ It was seen as irregular and potentially contagious requiring isolation. If you, or someone in your group has ever had to be in isolation share what that experience was (or is) like. If you want to be adventurous, have someone come to the group pretending to have a contagious virus (i.e. mask, rubber gloves, keep their distance from everyone, etc.), and after a while you can tell them it was an experiment, to give them a feel for what the people in today’s story felt like before Jesus healed them.