

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ One Grateful Leper**

Last week...I bore witness of all the Lord God did in Egypt  
God was glorified...He did it all, He is doing it all, He will do it all

Last time...Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead

This time...Jesus heals 10 lepers, but only one is made whole

We will be in Luke 17

v11 And it came to pass:

After the raising of Lazarus from the dead,  
After John 11:54

Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence  
unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there  
continued with his disciples

Ephraim was NNE of Jerusalem.

Jesus went north from Jerusalem, staying west of the Jordan River.

He would then head east and south and return to Perea, east of the Jordan River

as He went to Jerusalem...Samaria and Galilee:

The Holy Spirit is not speaking directionally because Jesus just left Jerusalem and  
is walking thru Samaria (Gentile) and Galilee (Jewish) on His way back  
to Perea

Instead, the Holy Spirit is speaking chronologically.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Jesus' ministry – nearing the days when He would return to  
Jerusalem for the final time, the final Passover, to pay for our sins

John 1:29

Lamb of God

John 15:13

Greater love has no man than this

Rom 6:23

wages of sin, gift of God

Rom 13:10

Love is the fulfillment of the Law

Matt 5:17

came to fulfill, not destroy

Rom 10:4 vs Is 64:6

end of the Law for righteousness, believe

v12-13 met Him ten men that were lepers that stood afar off:  
Into an unnamed village, perhaps a border town between Samaria and Galilee,  
walks Jesus

He has just raised the dead back to life  
He has healed countless people of their diseases, including lepers  
Mark 1:39-45, touched him, he widely published his healing...  
certainly to other lepers in the area

Now, “Jesus is coming”...word of hope travels fast among the hopeless

From a distance, 10 lepers meet and greet Jesus

Leprosy was an incurable disease that ate away/consumed the flesh  
It was contagious  
Per the Law, they were unclean (Lev 14)  
Lepers were required to keep away from uninfected/clean people,  
socially outcast and excluded from all others except other lepers  
They were required to yell “Unclean! Unclean” when “near” the  
uninfected to warn them of their presence

Did these 10 yell “Unclean! Unclean!” when they “greeted” Jesus?  
No, they hail Him as Master (Teacher...not Lord) and cry out for  
His mercy (to heal them)

In this the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of His ministry and in this region,  
Jesus is not an unknown, He is very well known  
The lepers know full well that He knew their plague...and that He could  
cleanse/heal them

So, they respectfully and desperately cry out for mercy/compassion,  
perhaps with the testimony of Mark 1:39-45 in the forefront of  
their minds

v14 He saw...He said...as they went:

The 10 lepers have Jesus' attention and He does indeed know their plague;  
He did not need to ask them any questions regarding their cry for mercy

When someone cries out for mercy from the Lord, He is ALWAYS merciful  
He is the Lord that delights in mercy (Micah 7:18) and is merciful to all who cry  
out for it

Jesus simply instructs them to obey the Law

Lev 14:2-3 *ff* This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his  
cleansing: He shall be brought unto the priest: And the  
priest shall go forth out of the camp; and the priest shall  
look, and, behold, *if* the plague of leprosy be healed in the  
leper.

He did not touch them, He just told them what to do...  
which requires faith

They had enough faith in His ability to heal their bodies to cry out for  
His mercy for that miracle

So, that confidence must be tested

“Go, show yourselves to the priests” is a test of that faith  
 (“Prove your faith.”)

Note: This would be a testimony of Who He is to...the priests who do not believe  
in Him

People healed of leprosy in Scripture (OT)

Only Miriam (before the Law) and Namaan (a Gentile) had ever  
been healed of leprosy...by God Himself

The priests could not heal leprosy, only God could

As they went...they obeyed Jesus' command, without being healed

Obedience is what the Lord God Almighty expects of us

Jer 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice,  
and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and  
walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it  
may be well unto you

1 Sam 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt  
offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the  
LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to  
hearken than the fat of rams

John 15:14 **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you**

Sometime after they obeyed, they were healed/cleansed  
Sometimes the Lord heals instantly, sometimes He doesn't  
Do not be discouraged if you are not healed immediately,  
continue to trust/obey the Lord  
Do not stagger at the promise of God thru unbelief but be strong in the  
faith, giving glory to God!

v15-16 one of them...glorified God...Samaritan:

One of the 10 lepers was a Samaritan, meaning the some or all of the other  
9 were...Jews

10 lepers, Samaritans and Jews united in shared misery

Looking at his clean skin, the Samaritan

1. does an about-face – going back to Jesus...closely vs afar
2. glorified God with a loud voice – unrestrained joy at having been given his life back and giving all the glory to God
3. fell down at Jesus' feet – worshipped Him...surrendered to (only God is worshipped, therefore...Lord, not just Teacher)
4. gave Jesus thanks – gratitude, a thanks of depth and warmth that yields love and devotion

He had been touched by God, literally even though not physically

Being a Samaritan, there is a reasonable chance he knew the testimony of

John 4:39-42 (in addition to the testimony of Mark 1:39-45)

He personally believed it

He proved it by going without being healed and then returning to glorify  
God and worship Jesus with his love and devotion

He has proof – he once was a leper but now is clean

He had a personal encounter with the love and grace of God

John 1:18

He was changed, not just on the outside but on the inside

v17-18 Were there not ten...give glory to God:

Jesus looks at the lone returning cleansed leper...

and wonders where the other 9 are

After all, all 10 lepers obeyed His command and were healed

But only one...the stranger/Samaritan...returned to glorify His Father Who had  
healed him

John 5:19

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise

Jesus came to do His Father's will...to glorify His Father (not Himself)  
John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men

Matt 5:16 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven**

John 12:20-32

Rom 15:1-7

The one stranger/Samaritan/Gentile returned to Jesus to glorify His Father  
The other 9...Jews...are no-shows to

- glorify His Father
- worship Jesus
- proclaim their thanks, gratitude, love, and devotion to Jesus

No gratitude, no worship, no glory to the Father...

are the souls of the 9 unchanged by the miraculous touch of God?

Is that possible?

Luke 16:31

John 11:49-53

case in point: Pharisees took counsel to kill Jesus

v19 thy faith has made you whole:

The one, the Samaritan who returned with joyful gratitude to glorify God and to worship Jesus as Lord, is made whole by his faith

whole: a complete healing

Not just healed physically (temporary) but also spiritually (eternally)

- sins forgiven
- Micah 7:18-19
- Luke 7:47-48

**Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.**

The other 9 are healed physically but not spiritually...

they are still dead in their sins

They had faith (a selfish motive) to obey (to personally receive a miracle) but did not have faith/love/devotion to return, to glorify God, to worship Jesus, and to proclaim their gratitude

God blessed 10 lepers

One passed the test of faith, 9 did not

One did the work of God, 9 did not

John 6:26-29

One surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ, 9 did not

One (few) was grateful, many (9) were ungrateful

One is pleasing (Heb 11:6), many are not pleasing

Many people have been healed, not all were/are made whole in God's eyes

Not all are made whole who are healed.

If a person is just healed in body, he's only getting a part of the work of God

Whose desire is to heal the spirit (eternal)

Ingratitude is one of the ugliest sins, a deeply rooted pride and self-centeredness

The one: I am here for Jesus!

The nine: Jesus is here for me

Jesus came to seek and to save sinners...to the glory of His Father

The one: agrees, in one accord with Jesus, glorified God

The nine: disagreed, not in one accord with Jesus, not glorify God

1 Peter 2:3-12

v3 the one tasted the grace of God, the 9 did not

v4 man's way/will is in direct conflict with God's way/will...hence  
Matt 16:24

v5 Rom 12:1 is acceptable to God because we are "in Christ", Who  
well pleases the Father

v7 to agree with God (v4) is to believe God...action, in one accord  
with

v9 chosen because we agree with (believe) God  
there is no seeing as God sees in darkness  
seeing as man sees is darkness  
by the Light we see as God sees

v10 agree with God and given mercy – the forgiveness of sins

v11 agree with Jesus, fall at His feet and follow Him

v12 those that disagree with God also disagree with those who agree  
with God

Selfish ingratitude does not glorify the Father,  
therefore is not in one accord with Jesus

Each of us must take inventory of the blessings of God, the touches of God, in our lives since we cried out for His mercy

Have we expressed gratitude/love/devotion/thanks, glorified the Father, and worshipped Jesus?

How do we show (action) our gratitude/devotion to God?

Is our thanks genuine or is it just a façade?

Have we taken the Lord for granted, carrying His name selfishly with ugly ingratitude?

Do our lives glorify the Father, shine the Light for men to see?

If so, we have not the mind and heart of Jesus

Ps 4:3, 5      But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

Ps 5:11-12      But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as *with* a shield

Are we profoundly and actively grateful for

- Who Jesus is and what He did for us (v11)
- who we are (v12; Rom 3:10, 23; Is 64:6; Is 59:2)
- God's gifts of repentance (2 Tim 2:25-26) and salvation (Eph 2:8-9; Heb 2:1-3, 9, 14-15)  
Heb 2...the great salvation (v3), the grace of God (v9),  
is deliverance from death (v14-15)  
Rom 6:23
- knowing God (Jer 9:23-24) and  
worshipping/praising/honoring/glorifying Him (John 4:23)

“in Christ” and “in Christianity” are radically different!

“in Christ” lives for Jesus

Gal 2:20      I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me

and saved from the wrath of God, the wages of sin

1 Thes 1:10

1 Thes 5:9

“in Christianity” rings of James 1:22

- lukewarm
  - 2 Tim 4:3-4
  - superficial, complacent, compromised, “convenient”
  - callously living in sin i.e. disagree with God  
James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good,  
and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin
  
- institutional Church
  - religious
  - spiritually dead
  - self-righteous

I take my relationship with Jesus Christ VERY seriously –  
He has paid my ransom and reconciled me to God!!!

I take my calling VERY seriously – did I teach the Word of God (sound doctrine)  
or ear-tickling fables?  
James 3:1  
Heb 13:17

So should each of you  
Acts 17:11  
1 Thes 5:21

Let us meditate on the 10 lepers  
1 grateful and made whole  
9 ungrateful and not made whole  
and examine our hearts to see if we are in the faith (2 Cor 13:5)