

BUT WHERE ARE THE NINE

LUKE 17

Text: Luke 17:17

(Luke 17:17) "And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?"

Introduction:

In our text ten lepers are healed but only one returns to give the Lord Jesus the proper thanks for his healing touch upon them.

Upon this lepers return, the Lord asks two questions.

Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?

If you figure it out percentage wise, only one out of ten, or 10% came back to thank Christ for what He had done. Let's not be guilty of being part of that 90% who do not give Him thanks and glory due His name.

Notice

1. THE CONDITION OF THE MEN (VS 12)

(Luke 17:12) "And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:"

Leprosy pictures sin in a person's life or an individual before salvation.

A. They Were Diseased

Luke 17:11-12

¹¹ And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

B. They were defiled.

1. Lepers had to cry out Unclean in the presence of others in order that they might be warned of defilement.

Leviticus 13:3

³ And the priest shall look on the plague in the skin of the flesh: and *when* the hair in the plague is turned white, and the plague in sight *be* deeper than the skin of his flesh, it *is* a plague of leprosy: and the priest shall look on him, and pronounce him unclean.

Leviticus 13:45-46

⁴⁵ And the leper in whom the plague *is*, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. ⁴⁶ All the days wherein the plague *shall be* in him he shall be defiled; he *is* unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp *shall* his habitation *be*.

B. They were denounced.

1. No one wanted anything to do with a leper.

C. They were distanced. (vss 12) afar off

Again the Law of Moses required lepers to keep their distance.

Leviticus 13:45-46

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The legal distance which these unfortunates were compelled to keep from passers-by was a hundred paces.

1. We too before salvation are a far off.

(Ephesians 2:13) "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

D. They were denied.

1. A leper was not able to take part in public worship due to the fact that he was defiled and might infect others.

2. A person's sins must be forgiven before he or she can truly worship God.

2. THE CRY OF THE MISERABLE (VSS 13)

(Luke 17:13) "And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

A. It was a desperate cry

1. No one else could help them.
2. No one else can help man in his sinful state.

B. It was a definite cry. (For mercy)

1. At salvation one is at the mercy of the Lord
2. There is no other means or name by which one can be saved.

C. It was a dependent cry (Jesus was there only resort for healing)

1. Jesus is the only source of Salvation.

(John 14:6) "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

3. THE COMPASSION OF THE MASTER (VSS 14A)

(Luke 17:14) "And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed."

A. Little did they know that the words spoken be the Saviour would result in there healing.

B. Their healing took part as they went , when they were obedient to the Word of God.

C. The Lord was moved by their plight and by their faith in Him.

4. THE CLEANSING OF THE MARK ONES (VSS 14B)

They were cleansed. "Only Jesus can make the leper (the sinner) clean.

5. THE CELEBRATION OF THE ONE MAN.

A. He Came Giving Honor to God

Luke 17:15

¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

- Was glad for his cleansing.
- Results of offering thanks
 1. Returned to give thanks
 2. Thankfulness leads to rejoicing
 3. Thankfulness leads to blessings.

B. He Came in Humility to the Lord

Luke 17:16

¹⁶ And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

Note:

The first inclination of this former leper was to worship the One Who had delivered him from certain death. He literally prostrated himself at the feet of Jesus in worship and thanksgiving. As a leper, he dared not

approach Jesus; but now, because of the cleansing he had received, he bows in His presence (Eph.2: 13).

Ephesians 2:13

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

6. THE CONCERN OF THE MASTER

Luke 17:17-19

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.

Note:

Only one out of 10 returned to give thanks for what God had done for them. This greatly grieved the heart of the Lord.

Note:

How often do we take our blessings for granted and fail to thank the Lord?

Psalms 107:8

⁸ Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 107:15

¹⁵ Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 107:21

²¹ Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 107:31

³¹ Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men!

Close:

Jesus said in vs 17,18, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save the strangers.

By coming to Jesus, the man received something greater than physical healing: he was also saved from his sins. The Lord said:

Luke 17:19

¹⁹ And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

The Samaritan’s nine friends were declared clean by the priest, but he was declared saved by the Son of God! While it is wonderful to experience the miracle of physical healing, it is even more wonderful to experience the miracle of eternal salvation.