

Church of God Sunday School

JESUS HEALS TEN LEPERS

Luke 17:11-19

In the Bible there are many stories about people who had a terrible, contagious skin disease called leprosy (*LEP-ruh-see*). When someone had leprosy, at first small, white spots would appear on their eyelids and on the palms of their hands. These spots would slowly spread over the body.

When those spots spread to the head, they would cause patches of hair to turn completely white. The spots would also develop into ulcers (open, running sores), and scaly scabs would form. The sores not only looked bad, but they were very unclean and caused an extremely foul odor.

In the Law given to Moses, God commanded that a person who might have leprosy had to go to the priest so that the priest could look at the sore and see if it truly was leprosy. If the priest determined that it was leprosy, the person would be "unclean." (Read Leviticus 13:1-8.) Not only was the leper considered unclean but so were his clothes and his house.

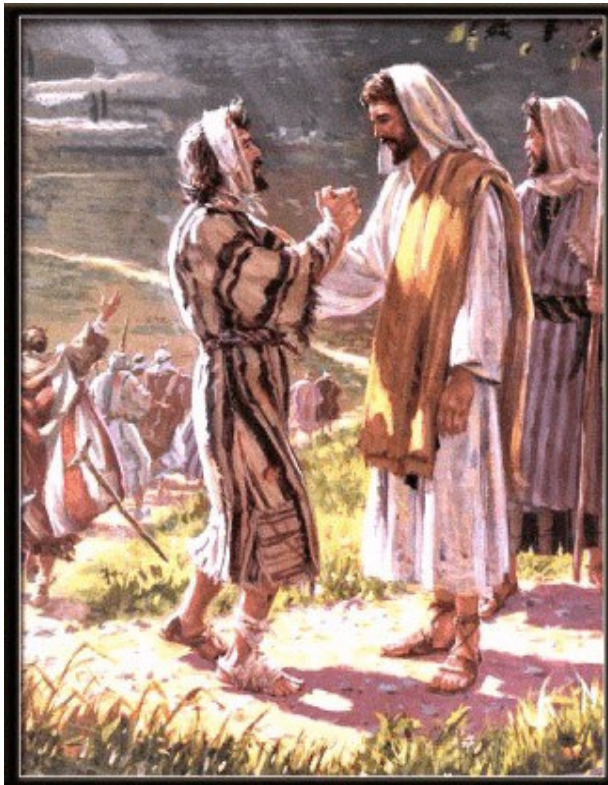
To be declared a leper meant that you had to live outside the city, possibly with other lepers, away from your family and friends. Wouldn't it be terrible to be unable to live with your family or to see your friends?

There were other rules that the leper had to abide by. One rule was that the leprous person had to cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!" if someone happened to pass by. This would give people time to get away from the diseased person.

One day as Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem, they passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. As they entered one of the

villages, ten men, who were all lepers, saw Jesus coming. No doubt, they had heard of Jesus and how He could heal people. Would He heal them? They were standing afar off, but they cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

When Jesus saw these men, He said to them, "Go show yourselves unto the priests." Remember, that was what they were supposed to do, according to the Law.



When the lepers heard what Jesus said, they all started off at once to see the priests. As they were walking along, in obedience to the words of Jesus, they looked down at their white, oozing skin—but what did they see? They were amazed! Their skin was cleansed of the leprosy! They were clean and whole again. Oh, how glad they were!

One man turned around and went back to Jesus and fell down at His feet and thanked Him for his healing. That man was a Samaritan, one of the people whom the Jews had no dealings with. In a loud voice, he glorified God.

Jesus was disappointed that only one man had come back to give Him thanks for his healing. Jesus asked the Samaritan: "Were there not ten [men] cleansed? but where are the nine? . . . [None] returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." Jesus then told the Samaritan, "Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

Out of the ten men who had the terrible disease of leprosy, only one man was truly thankful and thoughtful enough to go back and give thanks to God! The other men should have been thankful too. No doubt they were, but they forgot it was the Lord Jesus who had healed their bodies.

Jesus deserved praise for healing the lepers. They all should have been full of praise to the Lord for what He did for them. Aren't some people like that today? Have you ever been so caught up with God's blessings that you forgot to say "thank you" for what God has done for you?

Jesus wants you to be thankful to Him for whatever He does. He gives you life and breath every day. When you are sick or have a problem and God comes to your rescue, you should give God the glory.

Are you thankful to God for His goodness and mercy to you? Do you tell God that you are? Can you

name other ways that God provides for you and some more things that you should be thankful for?

Sin (disobedience to God) is often compared to leprosy. Leprosy will eventually cause physical death; sin spiritually kills the soul. Leprosy separated one from family and friends. Sin separates you from God.

Just as the leper had to leave the city and live outside it, sin will keep you from entering Heaven and will send you to hell. Only Jesus can remove sin from your life. The Christian is pronounced "clean" through salvation, but the sinner has to say, "Unclean! Unclean!"

MEMORY VERSE:

"The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works."

—Psalm 145:17

Guide the Healed Leper to Jesus



What Did Nine Lepers Forget?



Solve the math problems and use the KEY below to answer the question

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
 1+1 1+3 2+0 5+4 4+4 3-2 6+4 2+1 3+3 6+1 3+2 5+2

KEY

8 = A	6 = E	9 = H	3 = J	10 = K	1 = N	4 = O	7 = S	2 = T	5 = U
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