

The Life of Christ

Lesson 8

Luke 17:11-19

February 28, 2021

An Attitude of Gratitude

Introduction

Have you ever been in a situation where you received a gift, were glad for having the present, but did not show gratitude to the giver? In Luke 17, Jesus was begged by ten lepers to heal them, and heal them He did, but not everyone was thankful.

What is unusual about these lepers was that they were a mixture of Jews and Samaritans. These were two groups that generally hated each other. Still, because they were lepers and were rejected by everyone, these Samaritans and Jews had come together on the border between Samaria and Galilee (Jewish territory).

When He told these lepers to show themselves to the priest, He gave them more than just physical healing. Only priests could declare that a person was clean of leprosy, so Jesus was also giving them a ticket back into their respective cultures, but not all of the lepers reacted the same way.

Although all the lepers called out to Jesus, obeyed Jesus, and were healed by Jesus, only the Samaritan returned to show his gratitude. Similarly, Jesus' followers will sometimes call out to Him and are healed by Him, but they do not always respond with a humble and grateful heart.

Memory verse: "Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?'" --Luke 17:17-18

Pray and read Luke 17:11-17. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. Where was Jesus when this story took place? (Luke 17:11)
2. Who called out to Jesus? (Luke 17:12)
3. For what did they ask? (Luke 17:13)
4. What did Jesus tell the lepers to do? (Luke 17:14)
5. What happened while the lepers went to the priests? (Luke 17:14)
6. Which leper returned? (Luke 17:15-16)
7. How many of the lepers showed gratitude for being healed? (Luke 17:17-18)
8. What did Jesus tell the Samaritan leper? (Luke 17:19)

What does the passage mean?

1. Why do you think the ten lepers begged Jesus to heal them? Do you think that they truly knew who He was? (Matthew 4:23, 8:16; Luke 17:13)
2. How did Jesus respond to the Samaritan (hated by the Jews) and the lepers (rejected by everyone)? (Luke 17:11-19)
3. What did their immediate response to Jesus say about their faith in Jesus? (Matthew 21:22; Luke 17:13-14)
4. The Samaritan leper came back to thank Jesus after he was healed. What does this say about his faith, obedience, and thankfulness? In the same way, what does this tell us about the others who didn't return? (Luke 17:15-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; James 1:17)

5. Why do you think Jesus told the Samaritan that his faith had healed him? (Luke 17:19)

Applying the passage

1. All of the lepers called out to Jesus and obeyed Him, but only the Samaritan leper returned to thank Him for His healing them. Are you sometimes eager to call out to Jesus and even obey Him, but then fail to thank Him for His healing work in your life? Think for a few minutes and write down a few areas of healing where you have not thanked Jesus. Now pray about these and thank Jesus for the healing that He brought to these areas in your life.

2. Have you ever had a serious medical condition and called out to Jesus for help? How did that experience affect your praise and gratitude?

3. What does this passage say to you about the role of faith and thankfulness in your relationship with Jesus?