

# LUKE I Jesus Heals Ten Lepers Luke 17:11-19

*But Where Are the Nine?*

*Inv. song: Trust and Obey*

*“Gratitude is when memory is stored in the heart and not in the mind.” –Lionel Hampton*

## **1. Did you know that gratitude is good for you?**

- a. Researchers from UC Davis Medical School & Univ. Florida have confirmed this in a study:

## **2. They Divided into 3 Control Groups, with Brain Scans before and after...**

- a. **1st Group:** had to keep a daily journal listing all the negative events & thoughts of each day the disappointments, wrongs, hurts, frustrations.
- b. **2nd Group:** Told to just list regular events of the day neither positive or negative
- c. **3rd Group:** Told to keep a Gratitude Journal of things they were thankful for each day

## **3. At the End of 2 Months they did brain scans again and interviewed them...**

- a. **1st Group:** The area of the brain for anxiety, stress, anger and fear was enflamed.
- b. **2nd Group:** No Change in Mood or Brain Activity from Before
- c. **3rd Group:** The Area of the Brain for anxiety had reduced and the feel good areas grew

## **4. In Interviewing the Groups:**

- a. **1st Group:** Was More Fearful, More Depressed and Hopeless
- b. **2nd Group:** No Change
- c. **3rd Group:** was Happier, More Positive, more energetic, and expressed more hope!

## **5. THEY ACTUALLY CHANGED THEIR BRAINS IN ONLY TWO MONTHS**

- a. They Felt Better, Slept Better, Had more Energy, with Positive Enthusiasm

*“Gratitude blocks toxic emotions, such as envy, resentment, regret and depression, which can destroy our happiness. “It’s impossible to feel envious and grateful at the same time.” (Emmons) <sup>1</sup>*

## **6. Thankfulness is the Faith Force multiplier that pleases God!**

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## **I. THE CRY OF FAITH TO BE HEALED (v.11-13)**

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### **A. TEN LEPERS (v.11-12)**

#### **1. No disease was feared more in the ancient world than Leprosy**

- a) It was like a Flesh Eating Disease with sores all over the body
- b) A slow motion death sentence that horribly disfigured their appearance
- c) Even alive—a leper was a dead man walking—and when he died—he died alone

#### **2. Lepers were the untouchables—completely cut off from society**

- a) Unable to offer sacrifice at the Temple, or worship at a synagogue
- b) They were beggars because they couldn’t support themselves
- c) They were so hated by others that they eventually began to hate themselves

#### **3. A Doctor who worked at a leper colony wrote:**

*‘The leper is sick in mind as well as body. For some reason there is an attitude to leprosy different from the attitude to any other disfiguring disease. It is associated with shame and horror, and*

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<sup>1</sup> Study: Emmons, UC Davis Medical School; McCullough, University of Miami

carries, in some mysterious way, a sense of guilt, although innocently acquired like most contagious troubles. Shunned and despised, frequently do lepers consider taking their own lives and some do.' (Dr. A.B. MacDonald, cited by William Barclay)

***Imagine being so hated by others that you eventually begin to hate yourself***

## **B. BUT THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN UP—THEY HAVE FAITH (v.13)**

1. Faith to Hope even afflicted with a hopeless disease
2. Faith to Hope and Seek the Savior
3. Faith to honor Jesus—by calling Him Master
4. Faith to ask Jesus for Mercy!
5. Faith to do What Jesus Said in the Sermon on Mount... (Matthew 7:7–8)

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## **II. THEY WERE HEALED WHEN THEY OBEYED (v.14)**

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### **A. JESUS COULD'VE HEALED THEM INSTANTLY...**

1. He could just speak the word and heal someone...
2. He could lay His hands on a person and heal them...
3. Or He could heal them without even speaking a word...

### **B. BUT IN THIS CASE JESUS ASKS THEM TO STEP OUT IN FAITH...**

1. Instead of Healing them instantly—He Tests Their Faith...
2. He Commands them to show themselves to the Priests
3. This is a Faith Test—How Are They Going to Respond?

### **C. THEY WERE HEALED—WHEN THEY OBEYED!**

***v.14 'And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.'***

1. Their Faith Was Tested—and their Obedience was Rewarded
2. They Honored Jesus by Faith—Jesus honored them by Healing them

### **D. THE LORD MEETS OUR NEEDS—WHEN WE OBEY HIM**

1. Just Like Naaman the Leper! —The captain of the Syrian army...
  - a) He was told by an Israelite servant that a prophet in Israel could cure him
2. Naaman is like a 5-star general—he goes to the prophet (2 Kings 5:10–12)
  - a) He Was Mad! — Powerful People Don't Like to be humbled
  - b) Thank Goodness He had a wise servant
  - c) Wise People Surround themselves with Wise People (2 Kings 5:13-14)
3. Naaman Was Healed—WHEN HE OBEYED!

### **EXAMPLE: Times Change but Human Nature Stays the Same...**

- How many people today want to be saved / want to be healed...

**But ONLY if it's THEIR Way—Not God's Way.**

- Naaman was expecting a big show! He said: I thought the prophet would come out and wave his hands and call out loud on the name of the Lord...
- He Didn't Want to be healed God's Way—only His way!

- **Imagine if Naaman Went away Mad—and didn't have a wise servant  
—who was not to polite to speak the truth**
    - He would've died as a leper—Blaming God for not healing Him
  - **I Wonder How Many People this happens to today?**
    - a) Is Our Requests More Important Than His?
    - b) Is What We Think More Important Than What God Thinks?
    - c) How sad that people are so easily offended—When they don't get what they want
- NEVER REALIZING THE LORD MEETS OUR NEEDS WHEN WE OBEY HIM!**

### **III. NINE RECEIVED A GIFT BUT FORGOT THE GIVER (v.15-18)**

#### **A. WERE THERE NOT TEN WHO WERE CLEANSED? Where are the Nine?**

1. You can hear the sadness in Jesus question...
2. How Rare is True Gratitude Toward God? In This Case—only 1 in 10
3. All Ten were given the gift of Healing—But Nine then Forgot the Giver

#### **B. HOW MANY EXCUSES DOES IT TAKE— —TO REFUSE TO GIVE THE GLORY TO GOD?**

1. Maybe one waited to see if the cure was real.
2. Maybe One waited to see if it would last.
3. Maybe One said he would see Jesus later.
4. Maybe One decided that maybe he never really had leprosy.
5. Maybe One said he would've gotten well in time anyway.
6. Maybe One gave the glory to the Priests.
7. Maybe One said, well, Jesus didn't really DO anything.
8. Maybe One said, any Rabbi Could've Done it.
9. Maybe One said, I was already getting better.<sup>2</sup>

*“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”  
(William Author Ward)*

#### **C. USUALLY UNTHANKFUL PEOPLE ARE THINKING ABOUT THEMSELVES —THANKFUL PEOPLE ARE THINKING ABOUT GOD**

1. **EX: I heard about a man who was betrayed by a friend...**
  - a) And he went to him and asked: How could you betray me like that?
    - I helped you when you were down and out
    - I gave you a job and I lent you money when you were broke...
  - b) And the reply was: Yes, that's true, but what have you done for me lately?
2. **There's a lot of Loud People These days... w/ Opinions, Complains, think, want**
3. **But Very Few are Loud About their PRAISE FOR GOD! only 1 in 10 here!**

<sup>2</sup> List of excuses given by James Burton Coffman, Coffman commentary on Luke.

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## IV. TEN WERE HEALED BUT ONLY ONE WAS SAVED (v.19)

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### A. TEN LEPERS WERE HEALED—BUT ONLY ONE WAS SAVED

1. We would all like our health problems to be healed
2. And some think physical healing is the most important healing of all
3. But the thankful heart of this Samaritan brought Him a greater gift!
4. he was saved from his sins.
5. The same greek word translated here: “Your faith has made you well”  
Is also translated, “Your faith has saved you” (Lk 7:50, NKJV).
6. Physical healing is a great blessing, but it ends at death;  
while the blessing of eternal life lasts forever.

### B. DON'T FORGET—LEPROSY IS SYMBOLIC OF SIN IN THE SCRIPTURES

1. Both start inwardly—and the metastasizes outwardly
2. Both Leprosy and Sin: start out small—but then spreads
3. Both Leprosy and Sin: Defile everything it touches
4. Both Leprosy and Sin: Disfigures and Scars
5. Both Leprosy and Sin: separate
  - a) Leprosy separates the infected—sin separates us from God
6. Both Leprosy and Sin: lead to death
  - a) one leads to physical death—the other spiritual death

**But the Grace of God—working through the Faith of a Leper...**

**Transformed a man from a despised Leper—to the Richest Man in Samaria!**

**All because He Trusted, Obeyed, and Gave God the Glory!**

### C. WHAT IS YOUR THANKFULNESS QUOTIENT? –on a Scale from 1 - 10

1. If God Doesn't Get the Credit for the good things He Gives then who does?
2. All Ten Had Faith—But The Greater Gift is Given to the Grateful Heart!

*“I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.” (G.K. Chesterton)*

3. The Greater Gift is Given to the Faith that says ‘Thank You’
4. Thankfulness is the Faith-Force Multiplier that pleases God (Phil 4:6-7)

### CONCLUSION:

1. A LESSON FROM THE 10—All people need cleansing...
2. A LESSON FROM THE 9—Don't ask for a gift and then forget the giver
3. A LESSON FROM THE 1—The greater gift goes to the thankful heart