

The Ten Lepers

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

As He frequently did during His short ministry on earth, Jesus revealed the way of salvation through words and deeds. In the case of the ten lepers, Jesus physically healed all ten lepers but only one returned to thank Him. To him, Jesus forgave his sins. Let’s examine this incident to see what we today can learn about receiving eternal life in heaven.

Jesus was not wandering aimlessly about seeking whom He may find, but, as is the case still today, He was on a mission that day to speak to the heart of a specific person who was seeking Him; one of the ten lepers (and, indeed, only one of the many that were thronging Him that day). It may be said that all ten lepers sought Jesus as *“...they lifted up their voices and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us”* (Luke 17:13) but why was only one forgiven? Apparently, not all ten lepers had the type of heart that Jesus was looking for even though all used the same words to call upon Him. Sunday worship services today represents a similar situation where all in attendance hear the same word, sing the same hymns and worship the same God; yet, God may see that all hearts are not truly seeking Him. Scripture tells us that God looks not for the heart that wants Him but for the heart that truly needs Him: *“...to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word”* (Isaiah 66:2). So, He may choose to only speak to some on any given Sunday—the rest hear the word but they are not spiritually filled: *“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it”* (Hebrews 4:2).

All ten lepers were in the same spiritual condition: they suffered from a disease that only God could heal. Likewise, all mankind suffers from a terminal illness called sin, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23), and, thus, all mankind needs His healing forgiveness. We, like the lepers, must earnestly cry out to Jesus to forgive our sins for He has promised to hear the prayers of humble and contrite hearts: *“Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will,*

him he heareth” (John 9:31). And He has promised to reward us openly if we *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed”* (James 5:16). The reward is the gift of the Holy Ghost to all who *“...repent... and believe the gospel”* (Mark 1:15).

Once the lepers made themselves known and Jesus saw them He said *“Go shew yourselves unto the priests”* (Luke 17:14), which was a church law at the time, and before they could get to a priest they were healed. What joy there must have been! They probably went to tell others, forgetting all about Jesus, except for one, the Samaritan, who went back to glorify God. Because the Samaritan willingly returned, Jesus did one more thing for him, He forgave his sins: *“...Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole”* (Luke 17:19).

Today, there are many who catch the attention of Jesus by calling upon his name, and, as He did with the ten lepers, He listens for cries for salvation: *“The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them”* (Psalm 145:18-19). But as happened with the lepers, not all want to return to Jesus to receive spiritual healing; nine of the lepers found more joy in a short-term gain in this life than in gaining eternal life in heaven: *“For many are called, but few are chosen”* (Matthew 22:14). Today, many who call upon Jesus refuse to return to the tabernacle where they may confess their sins and receive forgiveness from God. Scripture points to the tabernacle where Jesus can be found as the physical body of a believer: *“...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people”* (2 Corinthians 6:16). There is where all penitent sinners can be reconciled with God.

Pray that God would search our hearts and let us know if there is any sin in us and then lead us to that mercy seat where we can hear that wonderful gospel message, *“...Son, be a good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee”* (Matthew 9:2) to which God promises eternal life if we *“...be...faithful unto death...”* (Rev 2:10).

God’s Peace, Charles Korhonen

Oct 4	Ken Storm – Holy Communion
Oct 11	Charles Korhonen
Oct 18	Ken Storm
Oct 25	Nathan Ruonavaara with meal

**Church Schedule: Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
10am**

Wednesday night Bible Study 7pm

Church Cleaning Schedule: The Miller Family

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