

New Faith Church
A Life of Gratitude Series: Luke 17:11-17
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I. **Introduction**

- A. Lessons of gratitude can come in many forms. Today we look at the life of a leper that is transformed through his faith and gratitude. We find this leper in Luke 17:11-17.
- B. Earlier in Luke Jesus is with his disciples travelling toward Jerusalem. As Jesus teaches, we see him cultivating a relationship with his disciples because He knows eventually they will be charged with establishing the church and carrying the Gospel message to the world.
- C. Jesus uses their encounter with Samaritan lepers to teach about thankfulness, faith, His power and salvation.
- D. Luke, as an author carries various themes that should be noted.
 - 1. *The universality of the Gospel.* Luke consistently presents the universality of the Gospel. He includes women, the poor and the Samaritan in his writings. He does not shy away from the fact that Jesus had compassion toward and worked in the lives of Samaritans who were despised in his day.
 - 2. *Healing and the human experience.* Luke would have known the story of Elisha and Naaman, the King who suffered from “leprosy” found in 2 Kings 5. Luke 4:27 demonstrate this. In Luke 5:12-16 Luke presents an account of Jesus healing a leper.
 - 3. *Jesus divine mission.* Luke shares themes throughout Luke and Acts for which he also wrote. One was that Jesus had a divine mission to “call sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32). Jesus had a role in God’s plan and He had authority. Luke often used the imagery of Jesus as a great physician.
 - 4. *The journey to Jerusalem.* Luke often highlights the movement of Jesus Christ toward Jerusalem. Jesus was often “on the way to Jerusalem”. Jesus ministry moved from Galilee to Jerusalem (Luke 4:14-15 and Luke 9:51, Luke 13:33 and 17:11)
 - 5. *The connection between healing, faith and salvation.* Luke reminds us boldly and subtly that God out of his love and graciousness sent Jesus to save, heal and transforms the lives. For all who would believed through His authority and by His Spirit there was hope.

II. **In each verse here is what the Scripture teaches and invites us to live out:**

- A. Verse 11 While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee.
 - 1. We see Jesus is on a journey, moving toward Jerusalem where He eventually He would be crucified, buried and resurrected. **Every move Jesus made had our salvation as the priority.**

2. During this time pious Jews went to great extremes to not have contact with Samaritans.
 3. Notice Jesus going between, moving potentially in this region to ensure He encountered the Samaritan. Jesus could have traveled to the other side of the Jordan and gone through Perea to avoid contact.
 4. When we are feuding, “don’t like” someone will spend lots of energy trying to avoid them. However, Jesus does not do this. **He understands His mission and ministry.** Jesus understood his supernatural authority and by his death He would bear our pain and suffering.
- B. Verse 12-13 12 As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; 13 and they raised their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”
1. In Israel leprosy was a state of uncleanness. A medically incurable disease that was feared by others and required a priest to diagnose. This diagnosis resulted in isolation. Ultimately lepers were forced to isolate, and this process resembled a funeral procession as they were banished to leper colonies.
 2. **There are times when we live in isolation and hopelessness however in Christ we can have healing and salvation.** The moment Jesus entered the village they called out. A reminder to call out to the Savior when bad news or things happens.
 3. These 10 leprous men knew not to approach Jesus so they raised their voices and called out to Jesus to have mercy.
 4. **They use the word *Master*, a title Luke seemed to prefer.** To Luke Jesus was the divine master, boss and chief. In Greek this title defined someone in power not just someone with great knowledge.
 5. The phrase “have mercy on us” found in Psalm 41:4 and Psalm 51:1-2 would have been familiar to Jesus. **These lepers remind us there is only one who can help us** when we are socially rejected, face the destructive chaos of sin and life. We need mercy today. They understand Jesus had the power to reverse what was going wrong in their lives.
 6. When we are overwhelmed, we can take out lament and sorrow to the Lord and cry for mercy as the lepers did.
- C. Verse 14 When He saw them, He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they were going, they were cleansed.
1. **Notice the compassion of Christ in that He sees and speaks to the lepers.** Also they see Him from a distance. Jesus’ compassion is available today. He sees us.
 2. Jesus honors the Old Testament law and honors Moses who taught how to restore lepers back into the community when they are cured.
 3. By the word of Jesus, the men are healed. It is their faith that cleanses them.
- D. Verse 15-16 15 Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, Verse 16 and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan.

1. In an act of affectionate gratefulness one leper turns back to glorify God and thank Him.
 2. The one leper saw himself and that he had been healed. **As long as gratitude is not married to our faith, this Scriptures suggests that it is not true faith.** Faith and gratitude go together.
 3. **A spiritual reality took place in the leper's life.**
 - a. He internalized his healing and personally experienced what Christ had done in his life. **This encounter with Christ changed him deeply.**
 - b. **This encounter intensified how much the leper trusted Jesus.**
 - c. This encounter deepened His faith.
 - d. This encounter moved the leper from knowing the Lord at a distance to experiencing Him up close and personally. Our gratefulness should move or closer to Christ regardless of what others do.
 4. **A Life of gratitude leads us to spiritual realities, a new and fresh way of experiencing the Lord in each season of our lives.** People who say they are not growing in their faith are not regularly practicing gratitude. This leper was grateful.
 1. Real maturing faith means Christians integrate faith and gratitude.
- E. Verse 17-18 17 Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? Verse 18 "Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?"
1. **The Samaritan in verse 16 who is also labeled the foreigner in verse 18. Jesus eagerly receives and celebrates the leper's actions.**
 2. We can be considered the outcast and yet demonstrate the greatest faith.
- F. Verse 19 And He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well."
1. **In the ancient world there was a widespread belief that illness was either sent by a god or caused by evil spirits.**
 2. **There was also the belief that disease was a sign of God's disapproval, or punishment for individual sin.** These views were wrong.
 3. **The fall in Genesis remind us that illness is the result of sin, and it impacts all of humanity.**
 4. **John 9:2-3 shows Jesus did not believe every time a person was sick it was because they sinned.** Further Jesus did not link his healings of physical conditions to forgiveness of sin. **Instead, Jesus' basis for healing was faith.**
 5. Jesus is concerned with our physical renewal. He also concerned that we are saved, and the sickness, sorrow and illness is "taken away". Jesus is also concerned that our faith is whole and maturing. Even in our illness we can experience Him. A cure for the body does not limit healing for the soul. One can be uncured yet be healed and have hope.
 6. **A life of gratitude remains grateful and seeks closeness to the Lord.**