

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
3RD-5TH GRADE
TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 21

The Ten Lepers



The Ten Lepers

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To encourage the students to thank the Lord for all things, and to remember His mercy and kindness toward us.

Key Verses

Luke 17:11-19—Main Teaching Passage
Leviticus 14:1-10

Memory Verse - Psalm 118:1

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Mark 8:36.

Ask the class how they would feel if someone in the room had a really bad cold. Would they be worried that they might get sick?

What if that person had a really bad stomach flu? Would they want them to leave the room?

Now ask them to imagine that they were the sick person, and everyone else wanted them to stay away from them. How would they feel if they weren't allowed to go anywhere or do anything because everyone was worried that they would make them sick?

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

The few verses from Luke 17:11-19 show us not only the depth of the Lord's love and mercy toward us, it also shows how much we take His goodness and grace for granted. At this point in the gospel, Jesus had begun His journey towards Jerusalem. In an unnamed village in either Samaria or Galilee (we are not told exactly), Jesus encountered 10 lepers. The lepers, seeing Jesus from afar and knowing that He had performed healing miracles, cried out in desperation, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." Jesus showed the lepers just that, mercy. He cleansed them and instructed them to show themselves clean to the chief priest in accordance with the law in Leviticus 14:1-10.

The lepers left rejoicing, but one in the group, realizing how great and kind the Lord had been to him, turned back towards Jesus. This man fell down at Jesus' feet, thanking Him for the miracle that He performed. This act of gratitude was magnified when we learn that the only one to return was a Samaritan. Jesus looked down at the Samaritan man and asked him where the other nine lepers had gone and why it is that only one had returned to thank Him for giving their very lives back to them. He then commended the Samaritan, saying, "Rise, your faith has made you well."

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Leprosy was the most feared disease that you could have in the ancient world. The disease attacks the nerves and skin, which can lead to other infections and disfigurement. It is highly contagious, meaning that in those days once someone was diagnosed with leprosy, they would be outcast and not allowed to live with other healthy people. Often lepers would be attacked, pelted with stones, yelled at, or even killed.

The ten lepers in our story were also outcasts. They would not have been able to see their family or friends or allowed to live in towns or cities. They would have lived together in the wilderness, doing whatever it took to survive. When they happened across Jesus, they saw a chance not just to be made healthy, not simply to have their disease taken away, but to have their whole lives given back to them. If Jesus would heal them, then they could go home. They could be with their wives and children, they could buy food in the market place, they could live again. They were asking Jesus to take them from being outcasts and considered dead by the whole world, and to completely and totally restore them.

LOOK (Continued)

When Jesus healed them, they were so excited to return to their lives, to see their children, to walk through the town without being attacked or insulted, that they forgot about the one who made the whole thing possible. Only one of the lepers returned to say thank you to Jesus, and he didn't just say thank you. He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, pouring out his thanksgiving. That now ex-leper realized that every single day of life from this point was a gift from Jesus. Every time he held his children, or talked to his next door neighbor, or bought fish in the marketplace, he could give thanks to Jesus.

You and I are not infected by leprosy, but we have another disease that we suffer from, the disease of sin. Just like leprosy, sin makes us outcasts from God's kingdom, it separates us from the Lord, and it slowly destroys us. Our cure is the same as the lepers': Jesus Christ. They didn't have to pay Jesus money to be cleansed. They didn't have to work for Him as slaves. All they had to do was ask and He cleansed them. All we have to do to be cleansed of sin is ask. Just like the one leper who returned, we should realize that God has given us all things in this world, even our very lives, and we should praise Him and thank Him for it continuously.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class memorize Psalm 118:1.

Ask the students to discuss the good things that God has done for them. Spend some time thanking God for His goodness and for His grace and mercy on us.

Pray: Thank the Lord for saving us from our sins. Thank Him for all the blessings we have.

Parent Question: Why did only one of the lepers return to thank Jesus for healing him?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 17:11-19 by David Guzik

B. The cleansing of ten lepers.

1. (11-14) The healing of the lepers.

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw *them*, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

a. **As He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers:** It was not unusual for these lepers to congregate with one another. They were outcasts from society at large, and had no company other than other lepers – so, they **stood afar off**.

i. **Who stood afar off:** "They kept at a distance, because forbidden by law and custom to come near to those who were sound, for fear of infecting them. See Leviticus 13:46; Numbers 5:2; 2 Kings 15:5." (Clarke)

ii. **Passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee:** "The words *dia meson* are best translated 'through the middle of,' or 'between,' referring to Jesus' travel along the border between Samaria and Galilee." (Pate)

b. **And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!":** They came to Jesus together and they prayed together, even though they were a mixed group of Jews and Samaritans (Luke 17:15-16). Bonded by their misery, their national and other prejudices vanished as they came together in prayer.

i. "A common misfortune had broken down the racial and national barriers. In the common tragedy of their leprosy they had forgotten they were Jews and Samaritans and remembered only they were men in need." (Barclay)

c. **Go, show yourselves to the priests:** It was remarkable that Jesus asked them to go to the priests while they were still lepers. This was truly stepping out in faith, as in putting on the new man even when we still look and feel like the old man.

i. "The one condition of healing was obedience. Ordered, they must obey. If He was master as they had cried He was, then let them prove their faith by their obedience." (Morrison)

ii. "God highly honours this kind of faith, and makes it the instrument in his hand of working many miracles. He who will not believe till he receives what *he* calls a *reason for it*, is never likely to get his soul saved. The highest, the most sovereign *reason*, that can be given for *believing*, is that *God has commanded it*." (Clarke)

d. **And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed:** Just as God blessed the faith of the lepers to step out as the new man even when they feel like the old, so will He bless our faith.

i. "It is as we go on the commanded road that we experience the commanded blessing. Let the Church obey the command of the Lord Jesus, and with enthusiasms evangelise the nations, and, *as she goes*, she will be healed." (Morrison)

2. (15-19) Only one out of ten of the lepers return to give thanks.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

a. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God: Only one came back to give thanks; and he was the *unlikely* one – **a Samaritan**. And, though he was the only one, at least he was very **loud** about his thanks.

i. All ten were willing to do a religious ceremony; that is go to the priest. Only one was filled with true praise and thanksgiving. “External religious exercises are easy enough, and common enough; but the internal matter, the drawing out of the heart in thankful love, how scarce a thing it is! Nine obey ritual where only one praises the Lord.” (Spurgeon)

b. Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Jesus *missed* the nine who did not return to give thanks. He wondered where they were. Jesus also notices our lack of gratitude.

i. “The question was asked, and it at once proves the value He sets upon the service of praise...One wonders whether it is not so that our Lord has been asking this question very constantly.” (Morgan)

ii. “Christ keeps count how many favours men receive from him, and will call them to a particular account thereof.” (Trapp)

iii. We can always find reason for gratitude before God. Matthew Henry, the famous Bible commentator, was robbed of his wallet once. He wrote in his diary that night all the things he was thankful about:

- First, that he had never been robbed before.
- Second, that though they took his wallet, they did not take his life.
- Third, because even though they took it all, it wasn’t very much.
- Finally, because he was the one who was robbed and not the one who did the robbing.

iv. “Lastly, if we work for Jesus, and we see converts, and they do not turn out as we expected, do not let us be cast down about it. If others do not praise our Lord, let us be sorrowful, but let us not be disappointed. The Savior had to say, ‘Where are the nine?’ Ten lepers were healed, but only one praised him. We have many converts who do not join the church; we have numbers of persons converted who do not come forward to baptism, or to the Lord’s Supper. Numbers get a blessing, but do not feel love enough to own it.” (Spurgeon)

c. Your faith has made you well: There was an extra healing for this tenth leper. When Jesus said this, He likely meant God’s work within the man’s heart. The other lepers had whole bodies, but sick hearts.