

**Title:** How Should We Respond to God's Grace?

**Text:** Luke 17:11-19

**Date:** Nov 21, 2021 at FBCW

## INTRO.

## THE STORY

V11. Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51). While in route, Jesus passes through the regions of Samaria and Galilee.

VV12-13. While traveling, Jesus encountered ten poor, helpless lepers.

- Jews wouldn't normally associate with Samaritans.
- But misery loves company – and the ten lepers included both Jews/Samaritans.

From a distance, the lepers cry out to Jesus with loud voices: “*Jesus, Master, please have mercy on us.*”

V14. Jesus gave the lepers one simple command: “*Go and show yourselves to the priests.*”

- But while the lepers were in-route...something miraculous happened → ...
- The lepers were cleansed/healed!

VV15-16. One of the lepers notices his healing...and instantaneously turns around...and returns to thank Jesus for the miracle.

- *Seeing that he was healed...he returned.*
- *With a loud voice...gave glory to God.*
- *He fell facedown...and was thanking God.*

V17-19. The encounter between the returning Samaritan and Jesus was very personal in nature.

- Jesus: *I thought ten were cleansed...where are the other nine?*
- Jesus: *Didn't others want to come and thank God...instead of only this Samaritan?*
- Jesus: *Get up and be on your way – your faith has saved you.*
  - Jesus implies the man was healed both physically and spiritually.

**First, notice the power of Jesus.** Yes, Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem to provide His ultimate ministry of atonement on the cross, but while in route, he provides ministry to needy lepers along the way.

**Jerusalem** → the beginning of the travel narrative, Jesus set his face on Jerusalem (Luke 9:51). This foreshadowed the cross, and Jesus would never look back.

**Samaria** → He cared for the outsiders! Jesus cared for the overlooked outsiders. Samaria was socially unacceptable for the Jews. They were outcasts and misfits.

**Galilee** → He cares for the ordinary! Galilee was the area around the lake/sea. Home of hard-working, blue-collar, middle-class servants. Jesus cares for common, ordinary people.

Note, Jerusalem was the big goal. ...But also... Samaria and Galilee were goals within the goal.

- For Jesus: it's not just about the ultimate plan...it's about all of life as part of God's plan.

Note, this is a great lesson for all of us:

- Where are you ultimately going?
- Who are you impacting for Christ along the way?
- Jesus had a task in Jerusalem – but it did not stop him from ministering to people!

**Second, notice the helplessness of the lepers.** These ten men are in a terrible predicament!

- Physically sick: painful, bacterial infection that affects the skin, nerves, eyes, and limbs.
  - Loss of feeling.
  - Muscle breakdown.
  - Skin sores, bumps, and lumps all over your skin/body!
- Socially alienated: you are confined to colonies with other lepers...because it's contagious.
  - No ability to co-exist with others in the community.
  - Must shout, "unclean, unclean" if you come in contact with others.
- Emotionally empty: it's been years since you've had a hug...or known human embrace...you've not tucked your kids into bed...or had normal human interaction.
- Financially bankrupt: you are basically unable to work/provide. You get by as you beg for the pity of others.

Listen to the language of vv 12-13 → *men with leprosy...standing at a distance...see Jesus...and raise their voices.*

"*Raising their voices*" → 1) yes, reflects their anguish 2) but no, not God's ability to hear!

- God is more aware of our need than we can fathom!
- Isa 59:1, *Behold, the Lord's ear is not dull, that he cannot hear!*
- Luke 8:46, *But Jesus said, someone touched me; for I know power has gone out from me.*

And the helpless men called on Jesus' name and plead for mercy!

- Jesus = his name means salvation, He is Savior!
- Master = this means Commander and Chief! It means he has complete authority/control.

**FACT.** Jesus is my Ultimate Savior...but He's the Lord of my circumstances until I'm in heaven!

**FACT.** Jesus is willing to mercifully intervene in any life that calls on His name by faith!

Note, Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests (Luke 17:14) (Leviticus 13).

- This was the custom/way of their Jewish system.
- If infected by leprosy, only the priests could pronounce you clean/acceptable again.

“*But as they went...they were cleansed*” (v 14).

- They got what they wanted (healing) when they acted upon what they were told (obey).

“*Go show the priests!*” → There is something powerful/irreplaceable when it comes to obedience.

Obedience requires:

- Faith, effort, humility.
- They had to get up and go to the priest!

Note, obedience has a cost! But disobedience is ultimately costlier!

**Third, notice the gratitude of the Samaritan.** When you know you’ve been radically healed (saved), it will result in passionate, heartfelt gratitude and worship.

Jesus commends the grateful action of the Samaritan!

- The man *saw*.
- The man *turned*.
- He had a *loud voice...praising/glorifying* God.
- He *fell on his face...giving thanks at the feet* of Jesus.

**FACT.** The lesson of the one grateful leper teaches us: the blessing of God’s touch should drive us nearer into God’s presence...not keep us away.

And Jesus noticed the gratitude! (vv 17-18).

- Our gratitude is personal with Jesus → Jesus Christ noticed!
- Nine lepers took the grace...but failed to give gratitude to Jesus.

Note, it was a *Samaritan* that was grateful!

- Be encouraged: Jesus loves to include the unlikeliest!

**Summary of the story:** Though Jesus healed ten lepers, only one returned to give thanks.

**Big Idea.** The most appropriate response to God’s grace in our life is a humble heart of thanksgiving.

**By way of application, this story calls us to consider our own heart → are we constantly grateful for all Jesus has done for us?**

**May we worship God with our whole heart!**

- Actions: the Samaritan traveled to the place where Jesus was.
  - Do we rise early to meet Him at His Word?
  - Do we faithfully get to church gatherings?
- Voice: Lift your voice in song! Use the words frequently!
  - *Thank you, Lord!*
  - *Hallelujah!*
  - *Praise the Lord!*
- Posture:
  - Lift your hands! Lift holy hands.
  - Get on your knees!

**May we get past our current circumstances and look for God's promised presence.**

- Whatever circumstance you are in – now is the appropriate time to praise the Lord!
- If it's a good time – thank Him!
- If it's a bad time – cry out to Him!

**May we intentionally serve others this week...and always. May we turn our gratitude into generosity and pay it forward.**

- ILLUS: there is a lady in a coffee shop I go into regularly. She constantly talks...she talks so much it's difficult to relax at all. She's socially unaware. I've tried on two occasions to meet people for coffee, and she's interrupted us at length both times. But this past week I learned why she's in the coffee shop (waiting on her husband who's in dialysis).

*Psalm 13:3-5, Consider me and answer, LORD my God...restore brightness to my eyes...I have trusted in your faithful love, my heart will rejoice in your deliverance.*

**Why do we trust in God's faithful love for us?**

- Scripture says God is love! (1 John 4:8) Jesus loves me this I know...for the Bible...
- He created us...but He didn't have to...He wanted to (Acts 17; Psalm 139).
- Jesus Christ died for us on the cross (Rom 5:8) for us.
- God has daily grace for whatever situation you are in.
  - There's no sin/situation...that if you call on His name...He won't rescue you!
  - Luke 15 and the Prodigal Son.