

THANK YOU LORD FOR SAVING MY SOUL

I. Luke 17:11-19

A. We used to sing a little hymn chorus back-in-the-day. With Thanksgiving rolling in on Thursday, I'd like for us to begin this sermon time by singing it together:

Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul,
Thank You, Lord, for making me whole,
Thank You, Lord, for giving to me,
Thy great salvation so rich and free. - Seth & Bessie Sykes, 1940

B. Luke 17:11-19 (ESV) is about 10 lepers. For many of you it will sound familiar...

1) V11-13: 11 *On the way to Jerusalem He (Jesus) was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. 12 And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance 13 and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." (In Jesus' day, lepers were the walking dead. Untouchables! The Greek words **lepros** and **lepra** encompass every kind of dermatological ailment, i.e. poison ivy, hives, acne, skin rashes. But these men likely had true leprosy, Hansen's disease, from which there was no cure. Hansen's disease affects the skin, mucous membranes, and peripheral nervous system. In rare cases, the disease can affect the eyes, liver, spleen, muscles, and bone marrow. Untreated, deformities of hands & feet could result. And why did these lepers keep their distance from Jesus? Moses laid out in Leviticus 13 & 14 the law regarding skin rashes. The afflicted were required to keep their distance from the uninfected, walk with their mouths covered, and announce their approach to others by declaring loudly, 'Unclean!' Leprosy was humiliating. Those infected were excluded from worship, work, and social gatherings and separated from family, friends, and neighbors. A leper's only sense of community was with other lepers. But listen how they address Jesus!)*

2) V14a: 14a *When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." (This was what the Law required when any skin infection cleared up...)*

3) V14b: 14b *And as they went they were cleansed. (All ten obeyed and all ten were healed!)*

4) V15-17: 15 *Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." ("Sozo" included healing of the body, healing of the soul, i.e. Salvation!)*

Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul,
Thank You, Lord, for making me whole,
Thank You, Lord, for giving to me,
Thy great salvation so rich and free.

C. Nine of these lepers had one experience but the lone Samaritan had a different one, a better one. Dr. Charles Baylis, speaking at Dallas Theological Seminary, said: "If the nine lepers were collectively interviewed, they would say that the most amazing thing about this encounter was they were healed from their leprosy. The Samaritan, however, would say the most amazing thing about this encounter was that He met Jesus, the One who could heal leprosy..."

D. Hebrews 13:15 (NLV) says: 15 *Let us give thanks all the time to God through Jesus Christ. Our gift to Him is to give thanks. Our lips should always give thanks to His name.*

E. We were born with a hideous leprosy called sin. In God's sight we were the walking dead, spiritual outcasts, untouchables, with no cure in sight. "All men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." We were members of that Romans 3:23 fraternity! That was us! But then *The Cure* arrived. The One who would cure our incurable disease. Isaiah 53:3-5 (NET) is our Remedy: **3 *He was despised and rejected by people, One who experienced pain and was acquainted with illness; people hid their faces from Him; (He became something akin to a leper on the cross.) He was despised, and we considered Him insignificant. 4* *But He lifted up our illnesses, He carried our pain; even though we thought He was being punished, attacked by God, and afflicted for something He had done. 5* *He was wounded because of our rebellious deeds, crushed because of our sins; He endured punishment that made us well; because of His wounds we have been healed. (Could today be the day of your healing from the leprosy of sin? Better yet, could today be the day you meet the Healer of leprosy, the Forgiver of sins, the One who makes whole, the One who saves, the One who gives life forevermore? Why not today?!)***

F. So which sounds better? Thank You for the food we eat. / Thank You for the friends we meet. / Thank You for the birds that sing. / Thank You God for everything.

OR

Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul,
Thank You, Lord, for making me whole,
Thank You, Lord, for giving to me,
Thy great salvation so rich and free.

*** Close with Prayer...**

*** Let me send you out the door with Colossians 2:6-7 (VOICE):** **6** Now that you have welcomed the Anointed One, Jesus the Lord, into your lives, continue to journey with Him and allow Him to shape your lives. **7** Let your roots grow down deeply in Him, and let Him build you up on a firm foundation. Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught, and always spill over with thankfulness.

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Luke 17:11-19 (ESV)

11 On the way to Jerusalem He was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. **12** And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance **13** and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." **14** When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. **15** Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; **16** and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. **17** Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? **18** Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" **19** And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Isaiah 53:3-5 (NET)

3 He was despised and rejected by people, One who experienced pain and was acquainted with illness; people hid their faces from Him; He was despised, and we considered Him insignificant. **4** But He lifted up our illnesses, He carried our pain; even though we thought He was being punished, attacked by God, and afflicted for something He had done. **5** He was wounded because of our rebellious deeds, crushed because of our sins; He endured punishment that made us well; because of His wounds we have been healed.

Hebrews 13:15 (NLT)

15 Let us give thanks all the time to God through Jesus Christ. Our gift to Him is to give thanks. Our lips should always give thanks to His name.

Colossians 2:6-7 (VOICE)

6 Now that you have welcomed the Anointed One, Jesus the Lord, into your lives, continue to journey with Him and allow Him to shape your lives. **7** Let your roots grow down deeply in Him, and let Him build you up on a firm foundation. Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught, and always spill over with thankfulness.

Film Clips & Article Links

The Ten Lepers - Dr. Charles P. Baylis at Dallas Theological Seminary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXvwIQORaP8>

The OT Law Regarding Leprosy

Leviticus 13:1-57 (ESV)

<http://legacy.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Leviticus+13&version=ESV>

Leviticus 14:1-32 (ESV)

<http://legacy.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Leviticus+14%3A1-32&version=ESV>

Closing Scene from Ben-Hur

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbSaNxldiSQ>

Clint Eastwood Reads Praise Song Lyrics (Thanks Mark!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB7gPIIQT7Y&feature=youtu.be>

Bonus Stuff

Luke 5:12-16 (ESV)

12 While He was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged Him, "Lord, if You will, You can make me clean." **13** And Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. **14** And He charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them." **15** But now even more the report about Him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear Him and to be healed of their infirmities. **16** But He would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

Why Didn't the Nine Lepers Return?

By Charles L. Brown

Why did only one cleansed leper return to thank Jesus? The following are nine suggested reasons why the nine did not return:

- * One waited to see if the cure was real.
- * One waited to see if it would last.
- * One said he would see Jesus later.
- * One decided that he had never had leprosy.
- * One said he would have gotten well anyway.
- * One gave the glory to the priests.
- * One said, "O, well, Jesus didn't really do anything."
- * One said, "Any rabbi could have done it."
- * One said, "I was already much improved."

- Charles L. Brown, Content The Newsletter Newsletter, June, 1990, p. 3.

Quote by John Wycliffe (1324 - 1384)

"We all are originally sinners as Adam and in Adam, his leprosy cleaving faster to us than Naaman's did to Gehazi, so that even the infant, before it has seen the light of the world, has this blemish inherent in its unborn members."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wycliffe

Quote by Thaxter Dickey

"Thanksgiving is really the only thing we have to give to God. When you think of it, all the material things we have are things we have been given and that includes even our talents and so much of who we are because of the circumstances of our birth. But our thanksgiving is ours. It is uniquely ours. It is something we choose to do. It is an offering of praise to God."

Quote by Chuck Colson

"Edwards [Jonathan Edwards] calls the deeper, primary form of thankfulness 'gracious gratitude.' It gives thanks not for goods received, but for who God is: for His character -- His goodness, love, power, excellencies -- regardless of favors received. And it's real evidence of the Holy Spirit working in a person's life."

Quote by Kay Arthur

"God is in control, and therefore in EVERYTHING I can give thanks--not because of the situation but because of the One who directs and rules over it."

Quote by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

"Be thankful. God has commanded it—for our good and for His glory. God's command to be thankful is not the threatening demand of a tyrant. Rather, it is the invitation of a lifetime—the opportunity to draw near to Him at any moment of the day."

Quote by John MacArthur

"A thankful heart is one of the primary identifying characteristics of a believer. It stands in stark contrast to pride, selfishness, and worry. And it helps fortify the believer's trust in the Lord and reliance of His provision, even in the toughest times. No matter how choppy the seas become, a believer's heart is buoyed by constant praise and gratefulness to the Lord."

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is good, because it is good, if bad, because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country."

Quote by Billy Graham

"A spirit of thankfulness is one of the most distinctive marks of a Christian whose heart is attuned to the Lord. Thank God in the midst of trials and every persecution."

Quote by A.W. Tozer

"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"There should be a parallel between our supplications and our thanksgivings. We ought not to leap in prayer, and limp in praise."

Quote by Francis Schaeffer

"The beginning of men's rebellion against God was, and is, that lack of a thankful heart."

Thank You Lord

Lyrics and Music: Seth and Bessie Sykes

Some thank the Lord for friends and home,
For mercies sure and sweet,
But I would praise Him for His grace
In prayer I would repeat:

Refrain:

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul,
Thank you, Lord, for making me whole,
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me,
Thy great salvation so rich and free.

Some thank Him for the flow'rs that grow,
Some for the stars that shine,
My heart is filled with joy and praise,
Because I know He's mine.

I trust in Him from day to day,
I prove His saving grace,
I'll sing this song of praise to Him,
Until I see His face.

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Jesus Heals Ten Men with Leprosy

By Pete Miller - ShareFaith

<http://www.sharefaith.com/guide/christian-ministries/ministry-of-jesus/healings-of-jesus/two-men-with-leprosy--healings-of-jesus.html>

A miracle is a phenomenal or supernatural event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers, and more often than not cannot be explained by the laws of nature. God never operates contrary to His Word or to the laws of nature which He has established, but He has the prerogative to supersede them. Instantaneous healings always constitute a miracle.

Of the six miracles unique to the Gospel of Luke, the healing of the ten lepers in Luke 17:11-19 is significant, offering a lesson about thankfulness as well as being illustrative of Israel's hardheartedness and blindness regarding their Messiah.

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, and passing through Samaria, He came to a village. Outside the village were ten leprous men, “who stood afar off.” According to the Law, lepers were to live outside city limits. Leviticus 13:46 states, “He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.” They recognized Jesus and called to Him, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” Jesus saw them, and simply said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” (Leviticus 14 gives the details of the procedures and sacrifices concerning the cleansing of lepers required in the Law). As they went to literally carry out what Jesus told them to do, they were completely cleansed of their leprosy.

Only one of the men, when he saw that he was healed, turned around and came back to Jesus. With a loud voice he praised God, and fell down on his face, prostrated at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. This man was a Samaritan, implying that all the others were Israelites. Jesus then used this opportunity to teach His disciples. “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?” Jesus asked these rhetorical questions, as He often did, to stimulate thinking, especially in the men He was training. He was pointing out that nine of God’s chosen people essentially took God’s blessing smugly, as if they deserved it, and didn’t even say, “Thank you.” But one Samaritan, considered a half-Jew and despised by the Israelites, received the blessing with great humility and heart-felt gratitude. He left the others and came back to Jesus to offer his thanks and praise to God.

Jesus said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.” In the King James, it says “Thy faith hath made thee whole.” The word whole in the Greek is *sozo*, the word translated “save” and “saved” as in Romans 10:9: “...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” In the context of the healing of the ten lepers, the Samaritan’s thankfulness brought him a wholeness that the other nine did not receive. The Message offers this rendering: “Your faith has healed and saved you.”

This unappreciative snubbing of the nine men was also symbolic of Israel’s rejection of their Messiah, the true King and Lord, Jesus Christ. Throughout Jesus’ ministry, He did His utmost to reach out to His own, Israel, “and His own did not receive Him.” (John 1:11) The Samaritan, detested and rejected by Israelites, and, in this case, also a leper, a reject of the rejects, graciously and thankfully responded to the Lord’s goodness. “Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” The answer was “no.” Just like the one that returned, it is often the rejected of society who most willingly accept God’s free gift of salvation, who know they are undeserving, but who bravely leave the ungrateful and humbly come to the Master.

- Pete Miller is co-owner of *The Writer’s Friend*, an editing and pre-publication business for authors, business owners and marketing managers. Pete grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area during the sixties and has been an avid student of the Bible since 1971.