

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## Luke 17:11-19 LESSON: GRATEFUL FAITH — May 8, 2016

### HISTORY:

**Chapter 17:5-10** The apostles now desired Jesus to increase their faith. And Jesus says all you need is mustard seed faith—the smallest amount of genuine faith. Then Jesus gives them a short parable of a servant and his master. Obeying the master is giving your all, for obedience is our duty. The more we serve, the more faith is demanded! And, the more we serve, the more our faith is increased! And no matter how tired we are, the more we serve, forgiveness is demanded, for we will be tested!

### LESSON:

#### I. HEARING A NEED 17:11-14

**17:11** **And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.** Jesus went toward Jerusalem. His face was set to fulfill His purpose on earth: to die for man. Jesus passed between the borders of Samaria and Galilee across the Jordan and into Perea.

**17:12** **And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:**— In this certain village that Jesus had entered, ten men were coming to meet Him. These men were lepers. They had no idea where Jesus was going. He could have been heading for an important meeting, or He could have been tired and exhausted, or He could have had no time for interruptions. But the lepers didn't care. They were desperate to get to Jesus. They stood afar off because they were lepers. The law demanded they stand at least six feet away from a person, and were to announce their presence if they had to come near. Somehow, they were determined to interrupt Jesus no matter what.

**17:13** **And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.** There was desperation in these men's voices because of their condition.

- This was the most feared disease of that day. The leper was considered utterly unclean, being disfiguring and sometimes fatal.
  - The leper was judged to be dead; the living dead wearing black garment, so they could be recognized as from among the dead.
  - The leper would be banished as an outcast outside the city gates, isolating themselves.
  - Leprosy defiles everything it touches and everything the leper touched was burned.
  - They were thought to be polluted, incurable by any human means whatsoever.
1. They called Jesus "**Master**" which is Rabbi or Teacher. The Jews always connected leprosy with sin. They recognized Jesus to be Master who could cleanse both the body and spirit; who could give them both healing and forgiveness of sins.
  2. They cried out for "**Mercy**." God does not always answer our prayers immediately. And sometimes we need to learn to trust Him more; build up a greater sense of need and desperation. They cried and cried for mercy in order to show their sincerity and to build up their sense of need. Crying out



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forces us to stay on our knees, and to persevere in prayer day after day; keeping us in His presence. This is where God's mercy comes in, for mercy would hear their voices and take care of their need.

**17:14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.** Can you imagine? Jesus didn't say to them you are healed? He didn't lay His hands on them. He didn't say have faith. He used the law of their day. We may never understand the command of our Lord, but we must obey Him! We **do know** that He came not to destroy the law but to fulfill it. Jesus heard them (that's good), then he saw them (that's even better), and then gave them certain instructions they **had** to obey to have their needs met—*go to the priest and report that they had been cleansed*. If they obeyed and believed the Lord's Word, they would be cleansed. And Note: they weren't healed yet but, they had to strike out for the temple; get to the priest. And they were on foot. The priest would inspect them and pronounced them clean. **So, as they went, they were cleansed;** while they were obeying the Jewish law of cleansing, they were healed (Lev.14).

## II. RECEIVING GRATITUDE 17:15-19

**17:15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,** All ten lepers were told to do the same thing to be cleansed of leprosy. But one leper when he saw that he was healed, turned back to go to Jesus. With his voice as loud as he could muster up, he glorified God. Gratitude is thankfulness. There are two main things we are to Thank God:

1. We are to Thank God for His work in Creation!
2. We are to Thank God for his work in Redemption!

**17:16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.** This one leper a Samaritan was seen by Jesus, falling down on his face at Jesus' feet giving Him thanks. Sending the lepers to show themselves to the priest suggests that they were Jewish. The Samaritan had been permitted to associate with them when all were ceremonially unclean, but in their healing, they did not share his deep gratitude.

**17:17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?**— Jesus had to ask where the other nine that were cleansed. It seems that they were eager to be declared clean, so that they could return to normal life in society, and evidently continued on to the priest forgetting to give thanks. This man, the Samaritan, the grateful and thankful leper, was the man who received assurance of being cleansed and of having his sins forgiven. The others did not show that gratitude. They failed in being grateful and thankful.

**17:18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.** The most rejected was the most thankful and grateful. Note the word "*stranger*." It means that he was a stranger from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. He now knew God. His heart broke forth to give God glory. Gratitude and praise bring assurance to the heart. Jesus had saved him from so much.

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**17:19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.** The verb "*made whole*" is literally "*has saved you.*" The Samaritan was clearly whole in body. This could be easily seen, but one could not see the spiritual and inward cleansing. Jesus was telling the man that his sins were forgiven. He was giving the man the assurance of salvation. Haven't you seen at some time or another people were healed that didn't even believe in Jesus? All the lepers showed faith by asking Jesus for healing, which they received, however, only one, it seems, was given Eternal Life because he returned to glorify God. The thankful man shall be the one truly saved spiritually.

## SUMMARY:

<sup>1</sup>As Jesus crosses over the border between Samaria and Judea He heals ten lepers at one time (v. 11). This group of ten men was composed of both Jews and a Samaritan. Jews and Samaritans would not normally live together but because of their common disease of leprosy the usual religious differences were forgotten. People who had leprosy were required to try to stay away from other people and to announce their presence if they had to come near. It says that these ten lepers "*stood afar off*" (v. 12). This is because of the command in Leviticus 13:45-46. They knew that Jesus was able to heal them, so they cried out to Him for mercy (v. 13). In response to their cry He commanded them to go show themselves to the priest (v. 14). When they turned to obey they were healed instantly, for their obedience was evidence of their faith (**17:11-14**).

You would have expected all ten men to run to Jesus and thank Him for healing them, but only one did, and he was a Samaritan. We are not told why the others did not give thanks but perhaps it was because of superstition, ignorance, self-interest, or plain ingratitude. The most rejected was the most thankful and grateful. And after falling to his knees at the feet of Jesus, Jesus tells him to arise and go his way (meaning he didn't have to go to the temple). Why? For his faith had made him whole meaning his faith had saved him (**17:15-19**).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/jesus-heals-ten-men-with-leprosy/>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>