

The 10 Lepers

(The Man Who Said Thank You)

Today, I am going to take you on an adventure with Jesus.

In this adventure...Jesus is walking once again....just like last week when all the people was following Him.

But this time, Jesus is walking to Jerusalem.

And while He is walking to Jerusalem...He meets 10 men...who had a terrible skin disease called Leprosy.

Leprosy is a disease that causes big open sores to appear on the skin.

The disease eats away at the flesh causing it to appear white in color.

The disease will eat and eat and eat the flesh until it eats its way down to the muscle and nerves...causing nerve damage.

Often the damage is so severe that the person actually loses the use of their hands or their arms or even their legs and feet.

Leprosy is a very contagious disease.

It can spread from one person to another very easily.

In the Bible...if you had leprosy...there were strict rules that you had to follow.

To start with...you were forced to live outside of the camp away from all the other people.

You were forced to leave your friends and your family behind.

But that's not all...Even while living outside of the camp...if the lepers saw someone walking towards them...they had to call out..."Unclean, Unclean" so that the people approaching would know that they had leprosy and they could avoid coming in contact with them.

It was a very lonely, painful existence that they had to endure...a life of misery and torture as the disease kept eating and eating away at their flesh.

In some VERY rare cases...leprosy would disappear. But...you were not allowed to return to the camp until a priest looked at you and declared that you were indeed healed.

As Jesus approached the city, the 10 men were waiting and watching for Him.

They had heard that Jesus might come their way and they hoped that He might heal them.

You see, they had heard about the miracles that Jesus had performed...and they were wanting a miracle of their very own.

Because they were lepers, they were not allowed to stand near the road.

So they stood at a distance with hoods over their heads and scarves across their faces to hide their awful sores.

As soon as they saw Jesus approaching, they began to call out "Unclean, Unclean".

But Jesus didn't stop...instead, He walked closer and closer.

The men began to shout "Jesus! Teacher! Have mercy on us!"

**Jesus called out to the men "Go and show yourselves to the priests"
The 10 men didn't waste a second...they turned and ran toward town...to find
the priest.**

**On the way, one of the men looked down and gasped. "Look!" he said excitedly.
"My leprosy is gone!" Jesus made me well.**

One by one, the men looked down and realized they had been made well.

They were so excited that they ran on and on to find the priest.

BUT...they forgot something very special...they forgot to thank Jesus.

All the men that is....except ONE!

One man knew that he needed to thank Jesus for what He had done.

He was so glad that he ran back to thank Jesus for making him well.

**He fell at Jesus' feet and with a loud voice, He praised God and He thanked
Jesus over and over again.**

**Jesus was very pleased with the man...but as Jesus looked up, He noticed that
the other men had disappeared.**

"Where are the other 9 people? Are you the only one who returned?"

**Through all of their excitement...all their happiness...they had forgotten to go
back and tell Jesus "Thank You".**

**Instead, they had run off to see the priest without even thanking the one who
had healed them.**

**Jesus looked down at the man and said "Rise and go. Your faith has made you
well."**

Many, many times...once Jesus has answered our prayers about something....we too...run off...all excited about what Jesus has done...but guess what? We forget to come back...we forget to tell Jesus Thank You...we use Jesus as just a way to get what we want...and guess what? That isn't right!

The lesson we learn from the story of the ten lepers is the lesson of gratitude of being thankful.

Only one of the men that Jesus healed came back to thank him.

**Are you a thankful person? Do you appreciate what your Jesus does for you?
What your family does for you?**

What others do for you?

Do you remember to say "thank you?" or do you have an attitude of "expectation?"