

## **The Gospel of Luke**

### **Ten Men Healed, One Man Saved**

Luke 17:11-19

1. **A Plea for Mercy** (v.13)

What we know now as leprosy, also called Hansen's disease, would have been one of the many different forms of skin disease that would classify someone as a leper. Priests were given clear instructions for how to diagnose and deal with leprosy as well as how lepers were to live (Lev. 13; 2 Ki. 5:1ff). Apart from God's deliverance from this illness, the life of a leper was of isolation and scorn (Lev. 13:45; Num. 5:2-3).

2. **A Merciful Healing** (v.14)

While Jesus' ministry has been marked by healings (Luke 5:15; 6:19) and other undeniable miracles (Luke 7:11; 8:43-48, 52-55; 9:12ff), this is the first time Luke mentions a miraculous healing in several chapters (cf. Luke 14:1ff). In obedience to the Law, Jesus sent the men to the priests (Lev 14:1ff), and as they went He instantly healed all ten leprous men (cf. Luke 5:12-14).

3. **A Response of Thankfulness** (vs.15-16)

The right response to answered prayer is thankfulness and praise to God (1 Sam. 24-28; Luke 1:64; 2:25-32; cf. Luke 8:38-39). The Lord prescribed a sacrifice for the Jews to be able to express their thankfulness to God for His blessings (Lev. 7:11-15). Thankfulness is both an attitude and an activity that is to characterize the Christian's life (Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:15-17; 4:2; cf. 1 Chron. 16:34).

4. **A Contrast of Thanklessness** (vs.17-18)

Jesus highlights the thanklessness of the nine lepers. God had blessed Israel in the past with many amazing miracles of deliverance (Ex. 7-12; 16:2-3) and of provision (Ex. 16:4; Num. 11:5-9; cf. John 6:31-34) which they received gladly but without lasting thankfulness or faithfulness. Jesus has already warned His disciples that the preaching of the gospel would also be marked by fickle faith that turns to faithlessness (Luke 8:4ff).

5. **A Gracious Salvation** (v.19)

One of the primary purposes of Jesus during His ministry was to preach the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43; 17:20ff). It is impossible to separate the preaching of the kingdom of God from the gospel of salvation from sin for the repentant believer (cf. Mark 1:15; Luke 19:10).