

LESSONS FROM LEPERS **(Luke 17:11-19)**

- I. We learn to be thankful when we think of how desperate our situation was before we met Jesus (vs. 11-12).**
- A. The closest disease that is equivocal to leprosy in our day is AIDS.
 - 1. No one wants to hear they have AIDS because it is a modern day death sentence.
 - 2. This was the case with leprosy.
 - B. There was complete isolation except for other lepers.
 - 1. The leper was cut off from family and friends.
 - 2. In a sense, they were cut off from God because they could not enter the temple to worship.
 - 3. They had to let anyone who came near them know they were lepers by crying, "Unclean, unclean."
 - C. This disease also brought humiliation.
 - D. Leprosy was a complete loss of your normal way of life.
 - 1. You had been left to die and there was nothing you or anyone else could do about it.
 - 2. The only diagnosis was you were going to die a slow and very painful death.
 - E. Leprosy has been compared to sin for a number of very good reasons.
 - 1. Sin destroys.
 - 2. Sin cuts one off from others.
 - 3. Sin cuts one off from God.
 - 4. There is no cure for sin other than Christ.
 - F. These 10 men had no hope unless Jesus healed them.
 - 1. You and I have no hope unless Jesus heals us of our sin problem.
 - 2. We were dying before we met Jesus and were completely lost without Him.
 - G. Until we realize how desperate we are or were before meeting Jesus we will never be thankful.
- II. We learn to be thankful when we think about what we've gained (vs. 13-14a).**
- A. These men did exactly what the Law of Moses required of them.
 - 1. They didn't rush up to Jesus as unclean people.
 - 2. They kept their distance and cried to Him.
 - B. They knew their only hope was for Jesus to heal them out of mercy.
 - 1. They were not asking for what they deserved.
 - 2. They were asking for mercy and the tense of the wording shows they understood the urgency involved in the matter.
 - C. Jesus showed mercy and healed them, commanding them to continue keeping the Law by showing themselves to the priest.
 - 1. One who was cleansed had to go to the priest to be officially pronounced as clean.
 - 2. This is found in Leviticus 14.

- D. These men gained their physical health because of the act of Jesus.
- E. When you and I obey Jesus, we receive mercy.
 - 1. Salvation is not what we deserve.
 - 2. Our sins cause us to be worthy of death.
 - 3. But through Christ we gain salvation.
- F. As Paul said...(2 Corinthians 9:15).

III. We learn to be thankful when we think about the fact that what was done for us could not be done by us (vs. 14b-16).

- A. No doubt these men had spent much time thinking of how to heal themselves.
 - 1. They may have tried different things.
 - 2. They probably discussed among themselves possible ways to cure themselves.
 - 3. All to no avail.
- B. Only Jesus had the power to cleanse them.
- C. One of them ran back to Jesus and gave thanks to Him for the healing that He'd done.
 - 1. Can you imagine being in this man's position?
 - 2. Having no hope of being saved from an awful death to now being completely healed?
 - 3. He shouted his praise of God and fell at Jesus' feet, thanking Him for what He'd done.
- D. Today, no one has the power to cleanse themselves of their sins.
 - 1. Man has devised a multitude of ways to try and do so.
 - 2. All have failed in so doing.
 - 3. Only coming to Jesus in His appointed way can we be healed of our sin disease.
- E. How thankful to God we ought to be because of this salvation that He has freely offered through His Son.
- F. One man wrote, "When we stop praising God, we start forgetting God."
 - 1. This was born out in the Gentile world (Romans 1:21).
 - 2. When we fail to take into account that all we have is from God, we begin forgetting God.
- G. We praise ourselves or others and place us in the place of God.
- H. We can't save ourselves, it is only by His grace and mercy that we can be saved (Ephesians 2:8-9).

IV. We learn to be thankful when we think about how much our ingratitude grieves God (vs. 17-19).

- A. You can tell by the questions that Jesus asked it saddened Him the others did not show thankfulness for what He'd done for them.
- B. Have you ever wondered why the other nine didn't come running back to Jesus with words of thanks?
 - 1. There may be different reasons.
 - 2. There may be fewer than that.
- C. We don't know the reasons but we know the sadness of Jesus.
- D. We ought to be constantly thanking the Lord for what He has done for us

spiritually.

1. There was a woman who was seeking salvation and she said, "If Jesus ever saves me, he will never hear the end of it."
 2. We should all feel that way who have been saved.
- E. Sadly, many have been afflicted with the ailment of thinking that says, "What have you done for me lately?"
- F. We want things right now and we tend to forget about what has been done for us in the past.
- G. We are commanded to be thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
1. The reason for this is ingratitude is a sign of immaturity.
 2. It is a sign we are leaving God.

This sermon outline is not an original but don't know the source.