

JESUS HEALS 10 MENA WITH LEPROSY

LUKE 17:11-19

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

CONTEXT

Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, what awaits him there?

- Greeted like a King
- Death on a cross (Betrayal)

What is significant about Jesus travelling between Samaria and Galilee

- Dividing line between Jews and Samaritans (did not mix company)

Why is Jesus travelling between the two nations?

- Open Discussion (text does not say)
- POSSIBLE, on his way to the cross he is expressing God's desire that grace will be for all
- Salvation will no longer be locational, but rather for those who choose to follow Jesus

Why is this context important to understand when looking at our text?

- Men in the text are all afflicted with the same disease (does not specify from where)
- Only the one returns, a 'foreigner'
- the only one told 'you faith has made you well'

THEN

Ten men (with leprosy), stand at a distance and call out in a loud voice to Jesus – WHY?

- Considered unclean – explain skin condition
- were not allowed inside villages and towns
- often had to where (or ring) bells that warned people of their proximity

What does it mean for men to be considered unclean in Jewish culture?

- unable to worship at the temple
- distant from God
- often considered afflicted for past sins or the sins of their parents
- treated with complete disregard by all

What do they call out to Jesus?

- "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"
- Master: ἐπιστάτης – epistates – overseer, ruler, 'to stand there' (ever present)
- Pity: ἐλεέω – Eleeo – mercy, pity

What are they asking for?

- Open discussion
- for someone they believe to be God (or representing God) to show mercy for their souls
- POSSIBLE, not asking for healing... but believe their sin is linked with the condition, so instead ask for mercy
- In line with Old Testament thinking on Mercy: Moses, David and Prophets

When does Jesus respond to their request?

- 14 when he saw them, he said, **“Go, show yourselves to the priests.”**

What does this tell us about the situation and Jesus?

- Open Discussion (text does not say)
- POSSIBLE, Jesus has heard many pleas for help from people in many circumstances
- needed to see how dire the situation was before he was urged to help
- perhaps he also saw the genuine heart behind their desire to be well

SIDEPOINT: We need to see each other

- Often we are caught listening to each other at a distance
- We neglect the need because we do not see how dire or genuine it really is
- We need to be like Jesus and be looking into the lives of others, so we let God show his MERCY

Jesus asks the men to show themselves to the Priests – how do the men respond?

- They go and do as they are told

Why does this act show more faith than sometimes we give credit for?

- Priests are located in the Temple/synagogue – in the centre of the village or city
- unclean men cannot enter such places, let alone stand before God in a synagogue
- shows they trust Jesus and his commands (he is truly their MASTER)

And so along the way they are healed – Great story, so why does it not end here?

- Because only one man comes back to say thank you to Jesus
- happens to also be the only foreigner (Samaritan)

Why is this important for the story, Luke is telling us?

- Open Discussion
- Because of what Jesus says’ to the grateful man next... **“Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”**

What does this man receive for coming back?

- Well: σωζω – Sozo – delivered, saved (Spiritual)
- the man is not just healed externally, but spiritually is healed
- receives what is truly important – SALVATION, true MERCY from God
- and this Mercy, is for all peoples, regardless of location or background

NOW**Who are we in this scripture?**

- The lepers

What are the issues we face that are much like leprosy?

- Family, money, health, reputation
- External issues

How should our view match that of the men in this passage?

- Jesus is our MASTER, and his is merciful

How often do we see that by calling out, and simply being obedient God can even fix our external issues?

- Open Discussion
- Obedience is often hard, but always worth it compared to what God gives us in return

How does that change your perspective of any current external issues?

- Makes us more faithful, and prayerful
- pushes us to call out to God and trust in his word to provide clear solutions
- Helps us understand God has MERCY on us, even with external (surface level) issues

What is the deeper message of this text?

- Open Discussion
- that our spiritual issues are the true focus
- Our gratitude and praise for Jesus and what he does (Cross) is what causes deeper, real change in our lives

We are foreigners before God, but how does God respond to us?

- Spiritual Wellness: Well: σωζω – Sozo – delivered, saved (Spiritual)

APPLICATION

What does it look like for us to be obedient like the Leppers?

- Open Discussion
- Church, Reading, Prayer, devotion

What does it look like to PRAISE God and have gratitude for what Jesus does?

- Open Discussion
- Sharing our Faith, purposeful mission
- Repentance, Openness, Willingness (sit at Jesus' feet)
- we become peaceful, secure in God

Challenge: ask others to assess your peace, repentance, openness, and willingness – see if it compares to what God has already done in your life