

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Thirty-Five

Cleansing Ten Lepers

Text: Luke 17:11-19

Introduction:

1. After raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus was not able to walk openly among the Jews in Judah for they sought to kill Him (John 11:54).
2. So, He traveled to a village called Ephraim that was located near the wilderness.
3. The exact location of this town is unknown, but it was away from the populated areas of Judah.
4. When the time for the Passover drew near, Jesus began to journey toward Jerusalem – seemingly falling in with the migrating crowds (John 11:55; Luke 17:11).
5. As he traveled, Jesus passed between (or, along the borders of) Galilee and Samaria, where He was met by ten lepers.

I. The Miracle

- A. Some reminders about the disease of leprosy
 1. It was painful, disfiguring, and deadly.
 2. It was contagious and, therefore, isolating.
 3. It was incurable by man.
- B. As Jesus came into a village, ten lepers cried out to Him for mercy.
- C. Jesus commanded them to go and show themselves to the priests.
 1. This was demanded by the Law of Moses (Leviticus 14:1-10).
 2. Yet, it was not the priests that healed them, for they were cleansed “as they went.”
- D. In spite of the fact that all ten lepers were healed, only one turned back and glorified God by expressing thanks.
 1. The nine were representative of the ingratitude of the Jews generally – and the Pharisees especially.
 2. It is significant that the one thankful leper was a Samaritan, a stranger.
- E. Jesus told this Samaritan that it was his faith that had made him whole.

II. The Manifestation

- A. Jesus demonstrated power over terrible disease.
- B. He also proved His deity by receiving the Samaritan’s thanks.

III. The Message

- A. Leprosy is a type of sin (Leviticus 13:45-46; Numbers 5:2-3; Matthew 25:41).
- B. All men are dependent upon the mercy of God.
- C. Obedience is required in order to receive the promised blessings of God.
- D. When a prayer for mercy is answered, a prayer of thanksgiving should be offered.
- E. Too many pray when in need, but forget God when they are blessed.
- F. Humility was key to this miracle – in asking for mercy, in obeying the Lord, and in giving thanks.