

=MIRACLES OF CHRIST=
Lesson 8
The Cleansing of the Ten Lepers

AIM: to teach my pupils to be grateful and thankful for all of God's blessings.

POINT OF CONTACT: Describe leprosy for the class. Explain to them that leprosy is a contagious disease which starts usually on the eyelid or the palm of the hand with a little pimple. Spreading outward, it finally covers the entire body. It works especially from joint to joint in the body. Sores usually cover the entire body, and in the worse cases, parts of the body will start to fall off. For example, the first joint in the finger would decay and fall off, then the second joint, etc. The body is covered with corruption and running sores. The person with leprosy was not allowed to be in society and was to pronounce himself "unclean" when he came around other people.

I. THE CONDITION OF THE LEPERS.

1. There were ten of them. (Luke 17:12) Ten is the number of testing in the Bible. God is going to test these men for their thankfulness. After a while in the story we will find that only one of them was grateful. Nine failed the test. Ask the class members if they have passed or failed the test of thanksgiving during these days.
2. Leprosy starts on the palm of the hands or on the eyelids, sometimes at both places. This pictures sin. Leprosy in the Bible is a type of sin. Sin also starts with the eyes. Achan said when he stole the garment in Jericho, "...I saw...I coveted...and took..." Notice the eyes and then the hands. If a person will be careful what he sees, then he will be careful what he takes. Let us be careful of the sins of the eye and thereby avoid the sins of the hand.
3. The lepers were contagious. Again remind the class that the leprosy was a very contagious disease, so the leper could not enter society. Sin is the same way. Being in the wrong crowd will cause us to contact certain habits and sins. Just as the well person was not allowed to mix and mingle with the leper, even so, the Christian should walk with the right crowd. There is far more chance of leprosy being contacted by the clean than cleanliness being contacted by the leper.
4. Leprosy was humanly incurable. This is also the case with sin. There is nothing that man can do to save himself. There is nothing that one man can do to save another. Humanly it is incurable; it must be accomplished by the Lord.
5. Notice the words in Luke 17:12, "...which stood afar off." Leviticus 13:4 tells us why they stood afar off. It is interesting here that it was their sin that separated them from the Lord Jesus Christ. Sin always separates from God. This was the case in the Garden of Eden; it is the case now; it will be the case in eternity. The reason some do not come to church is because of sin. The reason men do not pray is because of sin. The reason men do not read their Bibles is because of sin. The reason men are away from the Lord Jesus Christ is because of sin. Oftentimes people say, "I would be a Christian, but I don't like the preacher," or "I would be a Christian, but I don't like the church," or "I would be a Christian, but I am afraid I cannot hold out," or "I would be a Christian, but there are too many hypocrites in the church." These excuses are ones that sound good to men, but they are not acceptable to God. The thing that keeps people from Jesus Christ is sin, as is the case here.

II. THE SALVATION AND HEALING.

1. Notice the words, "...Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." (Luke 17:13) This cry was the thing that caught the ear of Christ. Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
2. "...And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed." (Luke 17:14c) Notice, the cleansing was by faith in calling upon Christ, but it was not effected until they **went**. Faith in the Bible is an acting thing, and faith without works is dead. The works do not save, but they prove the sincerity of the faith. They were going to fulfill the command of Christ to confess publicly the fact that they had been cleansed. Compare this with Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Believing in the heart is the faith, and confessing with the mouth is the proof. Without the confessing with the mouth, the believing with the heart is insincere.
3. "...Go shew yourselves unto the priests." (Luke 17:14) This comes from Leviticus 14. There was a

ritual of the cleansing of a leper that the priest went through. Bearing in mind that the leper represents the sinner and the priest represents Jesus, let us notice the beautiful picture of salvation found in this cleansing.

- 1) Leviticus 14:2b, "He shall be brought unto the priest." The leper was brought to the priest. The sinner must be brought to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only answer for sin.
- 2) In Leviticus 14:2, notice the word "brought." He could not come on his own. Someone else had to help him. This is the place of the soul winner in salvation. There is always a human instrument in the saving of a soul.
- 3) Leviticus 14:3a, "And the priest shall go forth out of the camp." This pictures Jesus Christ coming where we are. He left Heaven and came to earth for our salvation.
- 4) In Leviticus 14:4, these two birds represent the Lord Jesus Christ. One bird was to be killed in an earthen vessel. In Leviticus 14:6, 7, this represents Jesus' death in a human body for our sins. The second bird was to be dipped in the blood of the dead bird and let loose in the open field. In Leviticus 14:6, 7, this represents the burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. These birds used in the cleansing of the leper represent the fact that Jesus Christ, crucified, buried, and risen, is the only hope for man's sin.

III. THE RESULTS OF THE CLEANSING.

1. Thanksgiving. (Luke 17:15) We should be grateful to God for our salvation as well as all of the other blessings God gives us. Ask the class to list the blessings that God has given to them.
2. "...with a loud voice...." (Luke 17:15) He wanted everyone to know that he had been healed. He was not ashamed. Talk a while about making a public profession of salvation. If there are those in the class who need to do so, encourage them to do this.
3. "And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes." (Leviticus 14:8a) The first thing that the cleansed leper was to do was wash. He was to wash not only his clothes, but also himself. This pictures the fact that when a person is saved, he should be cleansed. He should live a clean life, a separated life and a dedicated life.
4. The day came when the priest would present the man before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle as cleansed. (Leviticus 14:11) One day Christ will present us as cleansed people before the Father.