

MADE WHOLE IN JESUS by Susie OBert

Luke 17:11-19

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Jesus used parables, as are recorded in the New Testament to teach His disciples and others about the ways and will of God. We can also learn much from this passage of Scripture in Luke through the interaction between Jesus and the 10 lepers. To start off, let's talk about the lepers. They were considered outcasts. According to the Jewish law, and really based on common sense, they were made to live together in camps separated from society. Their disease disfigured and crippled them as it progressed. I read it could also affect their voices so they talked softly, with a hoarse voice.

I think we can relate to the lepers sometimes. Our circumstances, even our choices make us not fit in. We feel cast out by people and alone in life. This may not be a disease but it can still be crippling.

So ten lepers cried out for Jesus to have mercy, compassion on them. It seems apparent they had heard of Jesus and of His miracles of healing. They called Him Master believing He must be one of authority, and they were hoping that He would heal them. They had hope. An earnest expectation that they could be healed. Then in the Scripture it says, "He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." He saw their need and pain. It is the same with us. We can call out to Jesus! He hears and see's our painful circumstances, what we are in need of. So Jesus told them, "Go show yourselves to the priests." When a leper was healed they had to go to the priest. The priest deemed them clean and then they

could return to society. This was according to the Jewish law, the Torah.

So they trusted Jesus, and had confidence in what Jesus said, since as they obeyed Jesus in what He told them to do, they walked towards the temple to the priests and they were healed. Just as with the lepers we have to put our trust in Jesus according to what Scripture tells us. **Proverbs 3:5-6**, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Can you imagine the joy of the lepers who were healed. They could live in town again. Reunite with their families. Not be looked at as a freak anymore but a walking, talking miracle. What a great story to tell. Their lives were made new again. And that is what Jesus gives us, newness of life when we believe in Him. The Apostle Paul spoke of that newness of life saying, "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." That newness of life makes us a new creation in Christ Jesus. Paul also explained, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) For us today it is as Jesus said, "'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" (**John 3:3**) The lepers now had their new bodies and new lives outside of the leper camp. But nine of the ten lepers missed the real new life. That was, a real new life in Jesus. Their first encounter with Jesus was to be just the beginning of a new and eternal and abundant life in Christ. 9 out of ten missed that.

But one leper did return to Jesus. Scripture says, the one glorified God with a loud voice, with the voice God gave back to him. Then he fell at Jesus's feet giving Him thanks. Jesus answered him, "**were there not ten cleansed. Where are the other nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?**" The one leper that returned to Jesus after he was healed was a Samaritan, he was not Jewish. He was likely not raised and taught about God in the synagogue or even about the coming of the Messiah. But he knew Jesus was worth coming back for. Then Jesus told him to go his way for **his faith had made him well**. He was made whole by Jesus! Not just his body but also his heart and mind. He had seen the truth and had been given the truth. And that truth is JESUS! Jesus said, "**I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" (**John 14:6**)

I don't know about you but I want to be like the one leper that came back. So many times we cry out to Jesus to help us in our circumstances, hoping and trusting He will hear and see our needs.

Then Jesus heals, delivers and provides for us. What joy we feel just like the lepers. But then we go **our** merry way living **our** lives. We know Jesus came through for us, but do we give Him Him the glory with a loud voice like the one leper? Are we excited like the leper to tell our story of what Jesus has done for us. Sharing Jesus our Redeemer who died on a cross for us, shed His blood for us and saved us? "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." (**Isaiah 53:5**) Jesus took our punishment that was due us for our sins against God.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (**John 3:16-17**)

Are we falling at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks for all He has done for us or have we just gone about our merry way like the other 10 lepers. Jesus told the one leper **his faith had made him well**. Not just cleansed from leprosy, but well. He was made whole in Jesus. Mind, body, and soul. His faith which is a gift from GOD. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift of God**, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (**Ephesians 2:8-10**)

The one leper got it. Jesus! He was set free that day, made whole in Jesus. "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (**John 8:36**) That's what Jesus wants for us, to be made whole in HIM. To give us a life abundant." Jesus gives us this great promise, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (**John 10:10**)

That's why we cant' just give Jesus a quick thank you, walk away and go on with our seemingly fixed lives. Guaranteed, our life will get hard and maybe even broken again. We can't do it on our own. We can try, but why when we can have Jesus who can restore all things? Jesus is waiting for us to call on Him, to sit with Him in prayer. To guide us and talk to us through His Holy Spirit while reading His Word. Jesus loves us, He wants us to be well and whole in Him. Can you imagine the one leper who was from Samaria walking into his home town. His family and freinds can't believe it's him. He is whole, no disfigurement. Leprosy gone. He can hug his Mother and he can tell them about Jesus and what He had done for him. Maybe that one leper was used to pave the way for Philip who would come to Samaria in spreading the Gospel after Jesus' death and resurrection, Let us be like the one leper who came back to Jesus. Thanking and worshipping Him for what He has done for us. Keeping the faith God

has given us, knowing God will never leave us nor forsake us.

(**Hebrews 13:5**) Just as King David said in **Psalms 9:10**, "And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You."

Jesus is a gift from God and a gift we can share with others. By telling our story how Jesus rescued us and made us whole. Just like the one leper. The leper knew Jesus was his exceedingly great reward. Just like God told Abraham. "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." (**Genesis 15:1**) Although there is no indication that the leper was heavenly minded, it is very likely based on His encounter with Jesus that He is there now. Maybe that one leper is in heaven cheering us on. Saying don't give up, cling to Jesus.

We have an example set before us with the story of the one leper out of the ten, who went back to Jesus. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (**Hebrews 12:1-2**)

Heavenly Father,

I confess that I have sinned against You.

I ask that You forgive me of my sins.

I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins,

I confess with my mouth that Jesus is my Lord,

and I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus from the dead,

so that I can have forgiveness of sins,

and be reconciled to You, God, My Father.

I now commit to You, that I will repent of my sins,

and live in the newness of life,

being led by Your Holy Spirit,

all this I pray, in Christ Jesus, my Savior and Lord. Thank You Lord!