

## Jesus Heals Ten Lepers but Only One Gives Thanks

By Pastor Kevin Lea

*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. Luke 17:11-14 (NKJV)*

When they cried, Jesus, **Master**, have mercy on us!" they used the Greek word "epistata" – meaning *appointed teacher* rather than "kurios" – which is the stronger word for master, meaning **supreme authority**. It appears that these ten wanted a healing without really acknowledging Jesus as the promised Messiah, or as their Lord.

*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. Luke 17:15-16 (NKJV)*

Jesus had told the ten to go show themselves to the Priest according to the Jewish law (Leviticus 13). The ten presumably headed off to the priest to get a "clean" certificate which would allow them to re-enter society. Nine of them did not come back to thank Jesus for healing them of a terrible disease, but the Samaritan did. After being declared clean, he returns to Jesus to give glory to God, humbled himself by falling on his face prostrate before Jesus, and gave **thanks** to the one who healed him. We know from John 4:9 that the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans, but this Samaritan is the only one who worships Jesus for what He has done for him.

*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**." Luke 17:17-19 (NKJV)*

This Samaritan's body had already been made well when Jesus healed his leprosy. Now Jesus has also made his soul well. How tragic that the other nine were healed of leprosy for a time, but neglected going back to Jesus to be healed of sin. Have you thanked Jesus for dying on the cross for your sin? If not, is it because you haven't yet worshiped Him as your Savior and are therefore still not "well" spiritually? Don't be like the nine who wanted something out of Jesus but did not worship Him as their God and Savior. Instead, I encourage you to have a family time where everyone is encouraged to thank Jesus for saving their soul and cleansing them from sin. If you/they can't or won't, it is time to stop assuming you/they are saved and instead, run to Jesus, worship Him as Savior and Lord, and then thank Him for healing your soul from sin.