

**ANONYMOUS PART FOUR
THE GRATEFUL LEPER
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LUKE 17:11-19
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Being alone and unloved is one of the greatest fears of the human heart. When we love we put ourselves in positions of potential hurt. What if we love and are not loved in return?

“It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.” Who are we kidding!

Our story today concerns ten rejected lepers—one of dared to love and found love in return.

LUKE 17:11-19

Luke 17:11-13: Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Leprosy was horribly debilitating. It still is.

As terrible as leprosy was in itself, it had serious social implications—lepers were ostracized, unloved and alone.

Leprosy Is Really Bad. That Is Why It Is Used In The Bible As A Symbol For Sin.

Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Two Biblical stories illustrate the parallel of leprosy with sin.

Naaman (2 Kings 5) was a Syrian commander who had two diseases: the spiritual sin of pride and the physical disease of leprosy. He couldn't get rid of his leprosy until he got rid of his pride.

Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26) was an Israeli king who became more and more famous as his Kingdom grew in riches, power and influence. Unfortunately, because he succumbed to the sin of pride, Uzziah was smitten by God with leprosy.

Because of the sin of pride we bring on the dreadful disease of spiritual leprosy.

Who Are The Spiritual Lepers Of Today? We Are!

All of us have sinned (Romans 3:23) and our sin not only keeps us from sharing the glory of God—it separates us from the Person of God Himself.

Sin destroys our intimacy with God—and others.

Sins dirty up our inner spirits and foil our abilities to see and hear from God.

LUKE 17:14: When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

Luke was careful to record that the ten lepers were healed after they left Jesus, as they were on their way to see the priests.

They believed Jesus enough to start their trek while the leprosy was still white upon their bodies. They behaved exactly as He had instructed them even before they experienced His healing grace. This is faith.

LUKE 17:15-16: One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Nine were Jews like Jesus; one was a Samaritan. The Samaritan alone paused in his tracks as his skin was healed, his eye lids reformed and the nubs on his hands reformed into fingers! He turned around and retraced his steps to kneel in worship and gratitude at the feet of Jesus.

This story is not really about the ten. It is about one unloved leper who experienced true love at the feet of Jesus.

When the leper knelt before Jesus, Christ did not say, "Get up from there, I don't need that, I am God!" The mystery is that the all-sovereign One not only receives pleasure from the ones He created, He also longs to love and be loved by them.

LUKE 17:17: Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

We hear in these words the emotions of a disappointed Savior. Does this not sound like disappointment to you? What did He mean, "Where are the other nine?" He knew where they were. They were doing exactly what He told them to do! They were on the way to Jerusalem as He instructed them.

Why was Christ was disappointed? Why? He wanted to experience fellowship with all ten.

Even today He wants to experience fellowship with each of us: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you (John 15:9)."

When we receive Christ our sin is forgiven and our relationship with Him is secured for eternity. However, our fellowship can still be impaired by sin.

Luke 17:19: Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Amazing Grace

Surrender

The chief purpose of man and woman is to love God and enjoy Him forever—by faith.