

The One in Ten

Sunday September 12, 2021

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Good morning, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Our last couple of messages have been spotlighting some of the amazing illustrations of the Bible.

In **John 3:12** Jesus told Nicodemus, who was at a loss to understand the concept of being born again: *If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?*

We humans have a very limited capacity to understand spiritual things, that is why we need God to compare spiritual things we do not understand to physical or material things we do understand in order to expand our comprehension.

Our God as demonstrated in His Word that He is the all-time champion Master of the illustration.

Today we are going to look at another of God's great illustrations in the Bible.

Our first text today is

Luke 5:12-13

12 And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on *his* face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

13 And he put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, *I will: be thou clean.* And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

This man was a leper. He was afflicted with the most dreaded disease of his day. Although leprosy is curable today when discovered and treated early, there are still many isolated leper colonies throughout third world countries where little or no treatment exists.

Leprosy is mentioned in the Bible more than 50 times and referred to more than that.

The effect of this dreaded disease upon the human body, especially in its later stages, is so vile and repulsive one can barely stand to look upon it.

God uses what leprosy does to the human body to illustrate what sin does to our soul.

Before a cure for leprosy was discovered in the 1940's, leprosy victims - and often their families - were exiled to remote isolated regions or sometimes islands like the one on Molokai, Hawaii.

There, some would be born, live their lives and die, never having seen or been exposed to any other life free from this disease. For them, this is life as normal.

It occurred to me as I researched these things that spiritually, this is much like the world in which we all live.

Our soul and that of everyone around us is being destroyed by sin, but since that is all we've been exposed to, it is just life as normal.

The effect of leprosy lasts until the infected person dies; what sin does to the human spirit lasts for all eternity.

There is only one cure for spiritual leprosy we have all been infected with and His name is Jesus.

There is another story in [Luke 17](#) of Jesus as He came in contact with a "certain village" of lepers.

Luke 17:11-17

11 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

13 And they lifted up *their* voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, **Go show yourselves unto the priests.** And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus answering said, **Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine?**

18 **There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.**

This scripture is the story of an event that altered the lives of ten different men.

Imagine yourself in this condition; to hear the Lord Jesus speak and watch your flesh become restored right before your eyes; what would have been your reaction? How thankful would you be?

You do realize that your sin has affected you worse than this! Before you met Jesus, our separation from all that is good was about to become eternal! Not just to suffer hunger and shame and wallow in filth and pain, but to suffer the flame and torment of a devil's hell...for...ever!

And what did you say your reaction would be? How thankful did you say you would be?

The truth is that about 9 out of 10 of us really don't think we were that bad. You probably just see yourself as normal. You really don't see yourself like you really were, or maybe, still are.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Do you understand the illustration of these filthy rags God is talking about?

If I could paint you a picture that could represent your soul that *was*...or maybe...*is* dead in trespasses and sins, this is what you would look like! [Picture of rags](#)

I did not put up a picture of a leper in the later stages of the disease because I didn't really want to plant that picture in your mind; there are things you cannot unsee.

But if you've ever seen a zombie movie, which I do not recommend, that is exactly the picture.

I. These ten physically were very much like every one of us spiritually.

A. They were diseased and afflicted.

1. They were lepers; they were destroyed, falling apart!
2. Because of their disease, they were isolated from the regular people; the healthy people.
3. **Luke 17:12** And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:
4. All these men received in life was what their horrible master of disease and disfigurement would give them.
5. Kind of like what Satan has for his children, of whom all of us either were, or still are.
6. He can even poison your mind to think that being a spiritual leper is just normal; the thing to be.
7. Someone said, "I'm just a sinner".

B. The one-in-ten who came back was said to be a Samaritan; a stranger.

1. Of the ten, this one may well have thought that he was the one who actually deserved the state he was in.

2. We certainly do.

3. **Ephesians 2:12-13**

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

4. I was once afar off...way far off!

5. Jesus went to that village on this day for a reason; to find and heal these ten men.

6. We believers, like these men, were not looking for Jesus; He came and found us.

7. Why would someone good, like Jesus, come looking for someone like us?

8. **Luke 19:10** For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

II. These ten were told what to do.

A. When these men were exposed to the presence and the goodness of the Lord, their reaction was to cry out for mercy.

1. Can you remember your own soul crying out for mercy?

2. Jesus told them what to do and “as they went, they were cleansed”.

3. Did they heal themselves by going to the priests?

4. Or did Jesus heal them as they obeyed His instruction?

5. Jesus came and found me.

6. He gave me instruction as well:

7. Repent (change your mind) and believe the gospel.

B. They could have said:

1. “Go to the priests? Yeah right, more religion.”

2. I could have said the same thing; I had prayed the prayer and went away lost. I had gone to church and witnessed the hypocrisy.

3. But this time it was Jesus Himself!

4. He is the Word of God made flesh,

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh...

5. I saw His promise for myself in the Word of God...and as I believed, as I placed my trust in His promise...I was born again, spiritually healed!

6. Who was it that told you to come to Lighthouse today?

7. That's right! It was the same One who healed these lepers, it was the same One who died for your sins, the same One who the grave could not hold, the same One who rose from the dead...do you believe this?

8. Is this the day for you to obey His instruction and trust Him to save you?

III. Ten men went on their way.

A. Nine of them followed the crowd and one came back.

1. Nine went on their own way rejoicing that they were healed.

2. One was so overcome by what he experienced that he could not contain himself.

3. Oh, that someone so good would come so far down in the mire of sin to find him and forgive him!

4. Oh, that someone so vile should be made whole, should be set free, should be spared from the devil's hell that he so rightly deserves...

B. I know what Jesus has said to all of us who are saved; "You are free, go your way, do what you desire".

1. I cannot but come back and fall at His feet.

2. I will give Him glory; you do what you will but as for me, I will join the one who came back!

3. I know what I was, I know what I deserve, in my flesh I know what I still am; I know what **was** the condition of my spirit!

4. I will spend and be spent to bring Him glory.

5. I know that those who come back to bring Him glory will always be in the minority; I have asked, even preached, “where are the nine”?

6. I have been doing this too long to think that it will ever be different.

Conclusion:

So go your way and do what you will...but as for me, I will, with a loud voice, give Him glory!

As a matter of fact, I will come back to give Him glory every week!

How about you?

Are you going to hang out with the nine going their own way, or choose to come back and give Him glory?

(Factoid: About 200 people per year still contract leprosy in the US; researchers believe mostly from contact with armadillos.)