

Your Faith Can Do More Than Heal You

International Bible Lesson

Luke 17:11-19

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“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Rise and go; your faith has made you well’” (Luke 17:19).

Leprosy is a debilitating skin disease that slowly destroys the body and mind. To prevent the spread of leprosy in Jesus’ day, lepers could not enter homes or villages or touch those without leprosy. For companionship, leprosy sometimes brought people of different races and religions together. Countries use similar quarantine methods today. Ten men suffering physically and mentally with leprosy gathered outside a village between Galilee and Samaria. Keeping their distance and with a loud voice, the ten men called out, “Jesus, Master, have pity (or mercy) on us!” (Luke 17:13). Jesus gave all ten men exactly what they asked; however, they did not receive their physical cleansing until they turned in obedient faith to show themselves to a priest, who would declare them clean and remove them from quarantine. No doubt these men rushed with joy to the nearest priest the moment they saw that Jesus had cleansed them so they could return to their families and live normal lives again. One of the ten did something different, probably before he went to the priest. He returned to Jesus and with a loud voice for all to hear he praised and thanked God for his healing. Jesus noted that all ten were healed, but only a Samaritan, a foreigner, had returned to praise God. This Samaritan demonstrated that he had received more than the others, more than physical healing. Jesus declared that his faith had made him “whole” or “well.” The word Jesus used in Greek also means “saved.” His thankful faith response to Jesus’ gracious healing made him physically, spiritually, and eternally clean and whole, which meant far more to him than physical healing.

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Thinking Further

1. Do you think these ten lepers saw Jesus “by chance” and called to Him? Based on what you know about Jesus and the Bible, give a possible explanation for your answer.
2. The lepers called Jesus, “Master.” How important is it for those who say they believe in Jesus to call Him, “Master”? Give a reason for your answer.
3. In what situations might you pray to Jesus, “Have pity on me!”?
4. What can we do that indicates we have faith in Jesus?
5. Give thanks to Jesus for something you experienced in the past week.