

Street Magic 4 – Making Disease Disappear

Text: Luke 17:11-19

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance

Traveled through a village “on the border”. Why outcast colony of lepers.

Leprosy

Leprosy, which is also call “Hansen’s”, would cause white patches and even tumors throughout the body, especially in the limbs and face of someone, destroys nerves.

Difficult if not impossible to hide that you were a leper.

Isolated from society, from life, from family, from friends

Object for **derision** and **fear**

Reduced to **begging** and total **dependency**

Must **pronounce his own shame** to anyone who comes too near (Unclean! Unclean!)

Cut off from the public worship of God, the ordinances of God

Life is a **visible symbol** of sinful corruption in human heart

Lived together – all outcasts. Accepted on another. Like Goth kids, drunks in a bar. Cheers.

¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us.”

“They called out to Jesus”

The world around us is still crying out for Jesus.

I've picked on Oprah, she is trying to give people answers, even though false.

"Master"

(1) **overseers**, officers (with authority over others) the *right* to command, submission

(2) Unique word to Luke only place used other than by the 12 disciples.

"have pity on us!" (mercy)

Greek word, ***"eleeo"***, means help someone or engage in a merciful action towards someone *because of their miserable condition*. (*ELEEO graphic contest*)

- Just as the lepers cried out for Jesus to have mercy...the world is crying out for you and I as Christians, to show mercy.

Illustration from CISM training this week and in scenario chaplain who said he would not even meet with someone who was having an affair.

Unless he was sinless and perfect, God accepted him with his sin.

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

"He saw them"

Do we even look anymore? The professional con-artist has justified our looking away from people who are really in need. We tend to oversimplify problems in the world to deal with them.

Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his bowels (of compassion) from him, how does the love of God dwell in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in speech, but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18

"Bowels of compassion" – that feeling like you've been hit in the stomach. You ache for people.

I get that for some of you and I'll pray and sometimes I'll call.

“Go, show yourselves to the priests.”

According to Leviticus 14, the leper, whose leprosy had gone into remission or who had been healed would show themselves to the priest who would declare them clean or unclean. “A clean bill of health”.

Before these men are even healed, Jesus says, “Go...” with no visible sign yet.

Lesson: Faith involves obedience and action.

And as they went, they were cleansed.

Amazing act of obedience. Why did they go? They had called Jesus Master. They understood who He was. He was God. He was greater than disease.

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

First of all he was a Samaritan so going to a Jewish priest didn’t seem to make sense or necessary. He was a "1/2 Jew," the one who worships at Mount Gerizim rather than at the Jerusalem Temple.

What is cool is that he returns to Jesus and recognizes Him as The High Priest.

He discovered it is not about religion, but really knowing God.

A theme in Luke’s gospel is the inclusiveness of all people.

...with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. Rev. 5:9

This man learned some keys to walking with God. Realize His greatness in worship (praise), and be grateful for what He has done (thanksgiving).

Psalm 100 – “I will enter His gates with **Thanksgiving**, His courts with **Praise**.

Pride keeps us from “throwing ourselves” at Jesus in thanksgiving and worship.

We like our worship “nice”. A fanatic is someone who loves God more than you, and you dislike them for it.

¹⁷Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”

Where are the other nine?

People in crisis turn to God, He rescues them, they go on their way until they fall into another hole.

God is calling us to a new life. It is not just helping you live your old life better.

¹⁹Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

Some versions say, ***“Your faith has made you whole.”***

You need to know the two words used in this passage that are translated as “Healed”

When the 10 men are healed of their leprosy, the word is, **“kath-ar-id-zo”** which means,
to purge or purify, cleanse.

When Jesus says to this one man, who believes in Jesus, recognizes him as Lord, “Your faith has healed you.” The word for “healed” in this instance is, **“sudzo”** which means ***made whole.***

This man was restored physically. Jesus did a creative miracle, not just healing. Where parts of this man body and face had been ravaged by leprosy he had been restored.

This is what God wants to do in us. He doesn’t just save us to keep us out of Hell (*though that is pretty good*). He makes us new and washes away our past and

gives us a brand new start. You do not have to be the person you were. He didn't "make you over" He tore down the old place and created new on the inside. The only thing left is the façade, the outer part.

Couple on **HGTV** bought house with termites and mold everywhere.

We don't need repaired, we need our interiors to be gutted and built new. Even though you may not recognize from the outside something IS being done on the inside and it will work its way outward.

This is what God offers you today, healing and wholeness.

- Healing that makes you free from pain, a new life.
- Wholeness to restore what the enemy and life has stolen.

Old Testament Examples

Now **Naaman** was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

²Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁸When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

¹¹But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

¹³Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

¹⁵Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. Please accept now a gift from your servant."

2 Kings 5:1-2, 8-15

Uzziah – another King who battled leprosy as a judgment from God. (read 2 Chronicles 26)

In Luke 10 it is a Samaritan that shows mercy to the beaten traveler. In Luke 4 Jesus says that during Elisha's time there were many people who had leprosy, but only Naaman, a foreigner, was healed. I see this as Luke's way of saying that **God's gift of faith is for ALL people** - not just for a select few.

Healing of lepers - a sign of the coming of the kingdom of God

Matt 10:7-8 And as you go, preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, cleanse the **lepers**, raise the dead, cast out demons: freely you have received, freely give.

Healing of the lepers - a sign that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah

Matt 11:2-6 Now when John had heard in prison of the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and they said to Jesus, "Are you he that should come, or do we look for another?" Jesus answered and said to them, Go and show John again those things which you hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, **the lepers are cleansed**, and the deaf

hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is *he*, whosoever shall not be offended in me.”