A Faith That Trusts

Luke 17:11-19

In Luke 17:11-19, we encounter ten lepers who courageously approach Jesus, seeking healing and hope. Lepers in that time were outcasts, physically separated and spiritually isolated due to their disease. Forced to live on the margins, they were cut off from community, family, and religious life. Yet, in a profound act of desperation and faith, they dared to hope when they heard Jesus was passing by. They cried out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” Despite the stigma surrounding them, they took a risk, believing Jesus **might** respond with compassion.

This story reflects a faith willing to break through barriers. Under strict cultural laws, lepers were forbidden from approaching anyone, often having to shout, “Unclean!” as a warning to those nearby. Yet, these men did the opposite; they approached Jesus and appealed for His mercy. Their plea wasn’t just a cry for physical healing but a profound recognition of His power. By calling Jesus “Master,” they acknowledged His authority, signaling a deep-seated belief in who He was and what He could do.

In response, Jesus doesn’t immediately heal them. Instead, He tells them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” Under Jewish law, priests were the ones who could confirm a leper’s healing, granting them re-entry into society. But at that moment, they weren’t yet healed. Jesus’

instruction required them to take a step of faith without immediate proof of healing. Their journey toward the priests was an act of obedience, one that demonstrated trust in Jesus' word alone. They had to believe healing would come, even though they couldn't yet see it.

This part of the story shows a unique dimension of bold faith—faith that acts before there is visible evidence. These ten men moved forward, trusting that Jesus' words were enough. And as they walked in obedience, their healing came. It's a powerful reminder that faith often requires us to move forward even when the outcome isn't clear. True faith isn't about waiting until everything makes sense; it's about trusting in God's word and taking steps forward, believing that He will fulfill His promises.

Yet, the story doesn't stop with their healing. As the lepers continued on, one of them—a Samaritan—noticed that he was healed and turned back to Jesus, praising God with a loud voice and giving thanks. While the other nine continued on their way, eager to resume their lives, this one man recognized the source of his healing and returned to express his gratitude. This Samaritan's choice to return to Jesus underscores another dimension of bold faith: gratitude.

Jesus' response to this act of gratitude is striking. He asks, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" All ten had experienced healing, but only one came back to thank the One who had made it possible. Jesus then tells the Samaritan, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." The Greek phrase here can be interpreted as a deeper form of healing, one that goes beyond physical restoration and

touches the soul. Through his gratitude, this man received not only physical healing but a spiritual wholeness that drew him closer to God.

This story of the ten lepers offers us valuable lessons about faith, obedience, and gratitude. The lepers' journey teaches us that faith sometimes requires taking steps forward before we have all the answers. It calls us to trust in God's promises, even when our circumstances don't yet reflect His work. And it reminds us of the importance of gratitude. When God moves in our lives, it's easy to focus solely on the blessing and move on. But true faith recognizes the Giver behind the gift.

The Samaritan leper's gratitude shows us that faith isn't just about receiving blessings; it's about building a relationship with God. Gratitude brings us closer to Him, reminding us of His love and our dependence on His grace. Like the Samaritan, we're invited not only to receive God's blessings but also to acknowledge Him and express our thankfulness.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool