

Sunday school lesson: Thanksgiving (2)

Today's HOPE (main point): I am thankful that Jesus has made me clean!

Our theme for this month is Thanksgiving. Last time we read the Old Testament story of King Jehoshaphat and how the army of Israel won a battle without fighting- they sang praises to God and He fought the battle for them!

Today we are going to read a story in the New Testament. We're going to read Luke 17:11-19. I will read it all the way through, and then I'll go back and break it down for us.

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

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

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

17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

So in order to understand this story, we have to know some things about leprosy and the Jewish laws about leprosy.

Can anyone tell me anything about leprosy? What do you know about it? (*take answers*)



Leprosy is a disease of the skin. It causes severe, disfiguring skin sores that can result in nerve damage. It was very common in Bible times but now it's fairly rare.

God had given the Jewish people very specific laws for dealing with leprosy and other diseases. Beyond God's laws, the Jewish leaders had created even more restrictions in an effort to keep the disease from spreading. A leper wasn't allowed to come within six feet of any other human, including his own family. The disease was considered so revolting that the leper wasn't permitted to come within 150 feet of anyone when the wind was blowing. Lepers lived in a community with other lepers until they either got better or died. The only way they could return to society was to be declared clean by a priest.

So that helps us to understand why, when Jesus encounters these lepers on the road, they stay at a distance from Him. But it's obvious they recognize Jesus and they call out to Him. What do they say?
"Master, have pity on us!"

Does Jesus touch them? *No.*

Does He say, "You are now healed!?" *No.*

What does He tell them? He tells them to go show themselves to the priests. Remember I told you that lepers had to be examined by a priest to determine the kind of skin disease they had and if they were clean or unclean.

So no physical change has happened at this point. Jesus told them to go to the priest, but nothing has happened to their skin yet. So this required them to turn and go to the priest in faith.



We don't know how far the lepers had to walk before they were healed; the Bible doesn't tell us. But somewhere along the way, they were healed.

And then they were all so excited they all ran back to Jesus to say thank you, right? *No.*

Only one returned to Jesus to express his gratitude. The Bible makes a point to tell us a specific detail about this leper who returned. Who was he? *A Samaritan.*

Samaritans were considered to be "half breeds" because they were descendants from Israelites who had intermarried with foreigners. They were hated by the Jews.

Jesus expresses disappointment that not all of them came back to show their gratitude. He says, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

God wants us to give Him praise and express our thankfulness for all the things He does for us.

Psalm 107:8 says, Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

And James 1:17 says, Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Another thing to know about leprosy is that it is often used in the Bible as an illustration to teach us about the destructive power of sin.



Leprosy, along with many other conditions in the Old Testament Law, would make you unclean. Not dirty, but unable to enter the presence of God. Animals, objects, food, clothing, and even people could be considered unclean. When objects or items were unclean, they were unfit for use in the worship of God.

While a wide variety of circumstances could make a person, animal, or item unclean, the majority of the laws outlined activities disqualifying a person or animal in connection with the tabernacle offerings. An animal offered for sacrifice had to be without defect. The person who offered the sacrifice also had to be “clean” before the Law; i.e., the worshiper had to comply with the Law and approach God with reverence.

Leviticus 10:10 says, You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean.

God used this idea of clean and unclean to show how holy He is and how unholy we are. Sin makes us unclean, unholy, and nothing unholy can be in the presence of God.

So when Jesus told the ten lepers to go show themselves to the priest, He was following Jewish law but He was also showing that He had the power to cleanse us from sin, to make us clean and holy.

Proverbs 20:9 says, Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin”?

Isaiah 64:6 says, All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

It's amazing that only one leper returned to say thank you. Being cured from leprosy was a big deal. It changed their life.



And how much more amazing is it be made clean from your sin? Being made clean from our sin involves more than walking to see the priest like in the story of the lepers. Being made clean from sin required Jesus going to the cross for us, shedding His blood for us.

Hebrews 9:22 teaches us, "The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

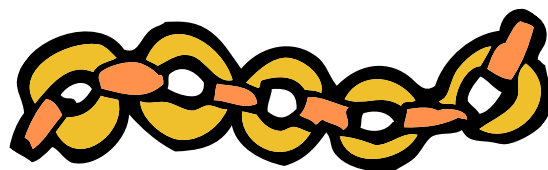
If we are in Christ, we have been made clean just like the lepers. Do we say thank you? Not just once, but every day? Do we live in a state of thanksgiving?

Let's thank God right now in prayer, and then we'll work on our Thanksgiving paper chain again.

Prayer: God, thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross so I can be forgiven and made clean from my sin. You are great, and greatly to be praised! Help me to live my life in a state of thanksgiving and rejoicing. Amen.

If you are not sure if you've been made clean, or if you have questions about today's lesson, please come talk to me afterwards.

Okay, let's add to our paper chain! <pass out paper strips and pens, help residents to write down something they are thankful for>





Faithful Friends

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Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy, Luke 17:11-19

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Psalm 107:8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Leviticus 10:10 You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean.

Proverbs 20:9 Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?

Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;

Hebrews 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Prayer: God, thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross so I can be forgiven and made clean from my sin. You are great, and greatly to be praised! Help me to live my life in a state of thanksgiving and rejoicing. *Amen.*

Words of Thanksgiving
FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Let's
GIVE
THANKS



Monday: I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. Psalm 69:30

Thank God for someone who has helped you.

Tuesday: Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:4

Thank God for your favorite song.

Wednesday: "The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. Exodus 15:2

Thank God for your favorite season of the year.

Thursday: I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! Deuteronomy 32:3

Thank God for a favorite childhood memory.

Friday: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. 1 Chronicles 16:8

Thank God for your favorite place in the world.

Saturday: Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. 1 Chronicles 29:13

Thank God for someone you love.



Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.



3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun!

Blessed Assurance

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.



In the Garden

1. I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.



And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known.

2. He speaks and the sound of his voice
Is so sweet, the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that he gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known.

Oh, How I Love Jesus

1. There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth; I
t sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.



Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

2. It tells me of a Savior's love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of his precious blood,
The sinner's perfect plea.

Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

3. It tells of One whose loving heart
Can feel my deepest woe,
Who in each sorrow bears a part,
That none can bear below.

Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

2. This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

I'll Fly Away

1. Some glad morning when this life is over, I'll fly away;
To that home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

2. When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away (in the morning)
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

3. Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away;
To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away (in the morning)
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.



Jesus Heals Ten Lepers



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

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

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

One of them, when he saw he was _____, came back, _____ God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and _____ him and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other _____? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your _____ has made you well.

Luke 17:11-19 (NIV)

cleansed
faith

healed
leprosy

nine
pity

praising
priests

thanked
ten