1 - Being Healed Of Leprosy

Luke 17:11-19

2 - **Jesus, Master, Have mercy on us**

**Come to Me all who are weary and heavy laden**… Matthew 11:28-30

* Ten lepers raise their voices and seek ***“mercy”*** from Jesus. (vs. 13)
* Jesus tells them, ***“Go and show yourselves to the priests”*** (vs. 14)
* They went, and ***“as they were going, they were cleansed.”*** (vs. 14)
* One *“turned back”* and was ***“glorifying God with a loud voice”*** and returned to Jesus and *“****fell on his face at His feet****,* ***giving thanks to Him****.”* (vs. 15-16)
* Jesus said, *“Were there not ten cleansed,* ***but the nine - where are they?****”* (vs. 17)

3 - **Understanding Leprosy**

**A deadly, horrific, and uncurable disease.**

* **“The scourge of the ancient world.”**
* **“Spongy, tumor-like swellings grow on the face and body**. The disease becomes **systemic and involves the internal organs as well as the skin**. Marked **deformity of the hands and feet** occur when the **tissues between the bones deteriorate and disappear**… Untreated cases may be sick with lepromatous leprosy from **ten to twenty years**, **death occurring from the disease itself**…”
(*The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, "Leprosy.")

4 - **Understanding Leprosy**

**Leviticus chapter 13**

* **Uncurable** by natural means during biblical times.
(2 Kings 5:7)
* Required **complete separation/isolation** from all others and all clothing to be burned as any **contact** with a leper would **contaminate**. (13:45-46)
* Required the leper to ***“cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!”*** (13:45-46)
* Anything **contaminated to be destroyed**. (13:55)

5 - **A “type” of sin**

* **Contagious** (1 Corinthians 5)
* **Progressive** (2 Timothy 3)
* **Incurable by man alone** (2 Kings 5:7)
* **Shameful and disgraceful** (Jeremiah 8:12)
* **Brings separation** (Isaiah 59:1-2)
* **Brings death** (Romans 6:23; James 1:15)

6 - **Old Testament examples**

**Naaman (2 Kings 5)**

* **Example of faithful obedience necessary.** (vs. 10-14)
* ***“Behold I thought…”*** (vs. 11)
* **Any leper would be willing to do any *“great thing”* to be free of this horrible disease.** (vs. 13)
* ***“Wash and be clean”*** (vs. 13; cf., Acts 22:16)
* **By God’s grace and our faith**. (Luke 4:27; John 9)
* Once cleansed, will we go back? (2 Corinthians 6:14ff)
* **Brought about by sin**. (vs. 27)

7 - **Old Testament examples**

**King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26)**

* **Someone determined to “seek God”.** (vs. 5)
* **God helped him** (vs. 7) & ***“his fame spread afar…”*** (vs. 15)
* His **heart became *“so proud”*** and ***“acted corruptly”*** as he thought he could take on priestly duties. (vs. 16-18)
* **God struck him with leprosy** (vs. 19-21) and he was ***“cut off from the house of the Lord”*** until the day he died.
* **He was separated from God because of his sin!**(Isaiah 59:1-2)

8 - **Old testament examples**

**4 lepers (2 Kings 7)**

* **Also separated because of their leprosy. (vs. 3)**
* **All were dying because of the famine (6:24-25)**
* **These lepers reason that they will seek compassion from the Arameans. (vs. 4)**
* **God had caused the Arameans to flee & leave everything** (vs. 6-7), **the lepers discover provisions in abundance.** (vs. 8)
* **They realize they must share the good news.** (vs. 9)
* **We must share the good news!**

9 - **New Testament examples**

**Mark 1:40-45,** a leper said to Jesus, ***“If You are willing, You can make me clean.”*** Jesus replied with compassion, ***“I am willing; be cleansed.”***

**Immediately he was cleansed** and **Jesus warned him not to tell anyone** but *to* ***“show yourself to the priests”.***

***“****But he went out and began* ***to proclaim it freely and to spread the news about…”*** (cf., Mark 5:19-20)

10 - **Back to the ten Lepers**

**All ten were healed because of their faith.**

**Leviticus 14 required anyone who was clean to present themselves to the priests.**

**Going by these ten meant they trusted Jesus that He would cleanse them.**

**But they had to go…**

11 - **Back to the ten Lepers**

**What would each do with their “newness of life”?** (Romans 6:3-4) What will we do?

**Something worse could befall them!** (John 5:14) It can happen to us also? (2 Peter 2:20)

**Would they (continue to) worship God?** Will we offer our lives as living sacrifices? (Romans 12:1-2)

**Will we freely share how others can be cured of such a horrible disease?**