

Encounter Jesus: 10 Lepers

Read: Luke 17:11-19

Summary:

Another exciting account of Jesus meeting 'ordinary people'. Again we see that Jesus loves to meet the 'outsider' and that grace is shown beyond the Jews as God's Kingdom is for all nations and people across the earth

On his way... to Jerusalem

We know that Jesus has been heading towards Jerusalem since Luke 9. Despite facing surely the biggest challenge of his life – the cross, Jesus has time to encounter people. He is going to the cross to spiritually cleanse the isolated and this meeting sees him physically cleansing 10 lonely lepers.

Stood at a distance

Leprosy was considered an infectious disease and often regarded as a mark of the displeasure of God. In Leviticus we know the Jews were taught that a leprosy sufferer must be kept 'outside the camp'. These guys were acutely aware of their need of help and cried out for mercy.

Go and Show

Jesus does not touch the lepers, He does not speak a healing word over them to ask them to wash in the Jordan, instead they are to go and see the priest. As they obeyed they received a blessing from God.

Praise God... in a loud voice

One of the ten returns, not even waiting to be reunited with his family and friends but comes straight back to Jesus to give thanks. He shouts out in praise and delight and throws himself at the feet of Jesus in humble recognition. Shock horror he was a Samaritan... we must not write off those Jesus wants to deal with.

Where are the others?

It appears as if the other 9 in their happiness forgot to thank the source of their blessing. We need to be quick to come back and thank God for all that He has done for us. Remember the great and wonderful blessing of God... Psalm 103

Application:

Please select for the following questions. Encourage all to take part, for people to be honest and make sure there is time to pray for each other.

1. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
2. How good are you at making time for people? In what way would you like to change in this area?
3. Pride can stop us asking for help. Take time now to pray and confess your need of God. Pray for each other to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
4. In what one way has Jesus asked you to obey that you are still delaying?
5. Brainstorm together as a group all the ways that you can express your praise to Jesus... clap, sing, dance and bow. Follow this with a time of worship.
6. What hinders you from being grateful to God?
7. How are you responding to Jesus in 2009 on the spectrum: reject or totally changed?