



CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

Los Angeles

Dgroup Discussion Guide
October 12, 2014

The Grateful Leper

Word:

Luke 17:11-19

While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing [a]between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; 13 and they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed. 15 Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, 16 and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? 18 [b]Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith [c]has made you well."

Jesus encountered the 10 lepers and when these men saw Jesus they called out to Him "Jesus, Master, have pity on us". They cried out to Jesus out of desperation, hopelessness, and misery. They probably had heard of the miracles that Jesus had performed and now thought they He could be the answer to their misery. They believed that if they could be with Jesus, they could be healed. That is why when they called out to Jesus, they were desperate for the Lord's help.

Have you ever been in a situation where you became desperate, so desperate that your only recourse was to shout out to the Lord?

Why were these lepers this desperate? If we look to Leviticus 13:45-46 ***As for the leper who has the infection, his clothes shall be torn, and the hair of his head shall be[a]uncovered, and he shall cover his mustache and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!' He shall remain unclean all the days during which he has the infection; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.***

Leprosy is a contagious debilitating disease. It is painful and depressing disease especially if you are the one afflicted with it. There was no cure for it during that time that is why the people were screaming "unclean". This was a way to warn the people to stay away from them. So these people were outcasts, even abandoned. This is why they were so desperate to be healed by Jesus.

What did Jesus do? In verse 14, Jesus tells them to go and show themselves to the priest. During that time you need to be declared unclean, or as someone inflicted with leprosy and at the same time you needed to be declared as clean or cured by the priest as well. That is why Jesus sent them to the priest They obeyed immediately because they had faith in Jesus. It was as they went that they were cleansed. It was as they went that Jesus healed them.

In the same way the only way we can experience God's healing power in our lives, the forgiving grace of God -- obedience and faith is very important. We do have to remember though that obedience is the manifestation of faith.

In verse 15 - 19 we see that out of the 10 lepers only 1 came back to thank Jesus. And the one leper who came back was a Samaritan. But he did not just come back to thank Jesus, he came back to praise and worship Jesus. Jesus then asked the crowd were not 10 healed why then did only 1 return to praise and worship God except for this foreigner.

What made the Samaritan leper return to Jesus? He was the only one who understood the grace of God.

But just like the 10 lepers we all need the power of Jesus to fix us and to heal our broken relationships. It is only with the power of Jesus that we can fix relationships, only Jesus can heal our misery, only Jesus can change our hearts.

The power of Jesus can:

- * fix broken relationships
- * straighten our miserable lives
- * to liberate us from being enslaved to sin
- * restore us spiritually
- * heal us
- * provide for our needs
- * fill our empty hearts

The 9 lepers on the other hand needed the power of Jesus to go back to the lives they used to live before they were declared unclean. They longed to be reunited to their loved ones. The thought that what they really needed was for the priest to declare them clean. . . and not Jesus Himself. They were ungrateful. They were unfaithful.

There are days that we too are like these 9 lepers. . . focusing our eyes on the gifts and forgetting about the Giver. We enjoy the blessings but lose focus on the Giver. We are quick to pray but slow to praise Him and worshipping our Lord Jesus.

We think of Jesus as a cosmic ATM machine or a genie but not as our Lord and Master. Losing focus on what really matters the most. We should be more like the Samaritan leper who never lost focus, he did not need the priest to declare him clean. . . all he needed was Jesus. He was grateful and faithful and that is why he came back to say thank you and to worship Jesus.

This is a reminder for all of us to be grateful for everything and in everything. This is what grace is all about -- understanding that we are lost and knowing that God is faithful to heal us and to come into our lives when we call out to Him. We need to experience the grace of God in our lives in order for us to completely understand the foundation of our faith and obedience.

But how can you talk about the grace of God if you yourself has not encountered God's grace in your life? How can you share God's love with others if you yourself have not experienced His love in your life? We have to be intentional about experiencing God in our life. We have to be passionate in making people know about the grace and the goodness of God.

We were unclean. unworthy. hopeless. helpless. And yet God loved us first. We need to look back to where we came from and see the great work that the Lord has done in our lives.

Our attitude of gratefulness should motivate us to look back and see the grace of God in our lives. The farther away we move from our old self, the more we should realize how far God has carried us. More importantly we need to realize how miserable we are apart from Christ.

Works: Journaling task

1. Are we like the 9 lepers or the Samaritan leper?
2. What are the things we are grateful for in our life?
3. Do we find it easy or difficult to be grateful in the easy times as well as the difficult times?
4. What are the things that stand as hindrances to us fully experiencing the grace and the power of God in our lives?