

FPFWC Christian Development



Faith and Salvation

July 2021

Summer Quarter

July 3, 2021

Lesson #1 –Attitude of Gratitude

Scripture Focus – Leviticus 13:45-46; Luke 17:11-19

ICE BREAKER –

1. *Why is it important that we operate from a place of thankfulness to God?*
2. *Define Worship.*
3. *What stops believers from giving praise and thanks to the Lord?*

Key Verse: One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God.—Luke 17:15

LESSON BACKGROUND

The two Scripture passages in this lesson were written more than 1,000 years apart. But the text from Leviticus gives important context for the account found in Luke. Leviticus 13 is devoted to the identification and regulation of skin diseases as part of the legal code for Israel.

We might be surprised to see such rules, assuming that the Law of Moses covered only religious regulations, prohibitions against crimes such as murder and thievery, etc. However, what we would consider a medical problem was a religious and community issue for God's people. They saw physical afflictions as more than health issues; they understood them as punishment for sin (compare John 9:1–2).

Detection of certain skin conditions identified one as having leprosy; a person with leprosy was unclean. A skin disease was usually treated with washing and quarantine. If the disease did not go away, it was considered ongoing and therefore demanded banishment of the person from the community. This amounted to a sentence of lifelong shame and isolation (example: 2 Chronicles 26:19–21). The appearance of leprosy was a life-altering event that usually ended only with death.

Biblical descriptions of leprosy are not precise enough to narrow it to any single skin condition known today. The term *leprosy* today is identified with Hansen's Disease only—a slowly progressing bacterial infection that causes disfigurement and nerve damage. However, in both the Old and New Testaments, the word *leprosy* seems to describe skin diseases in a more general sense. Leprosy included a scaly skin appearance that could be described as being "white as snow" (Numbers 12:10; compare Exodus 4:6), a condition that might be caused by several diseases.

Tension between Jews and Samaritans is an undercurrent in today's lesson. Jews and Samaritans were religious and ethnic cousins, sharing a common ancestry and both loyal to the Law of Moses (compare John 4:5–26). But events starting with the division of Israel into two kingdoms in about 930 BC, and exacerbated by the northern kingdom's exile in 722 BC, alienated the two groups. After the northern kingdom's exile, those remaining intermarried with the peoples

that the conquerors resettled in the land. This mixture of different people and culture resulted in the Samaritans. The Old Testament traces the time line of these events from 2 Kings 17 through Ezra 4 and Nehemiah 4 (compare Luke 9:51–56).

LESSON COMMENTARY

Leviticus 13:45-46 - Bodily diseases separated the worshiper from the presence of God and the practice of prescribed worship (cf. Le 13:45–46). He was considered ceremonially unclean, though not necessarily sinful. It would be wrong to conclude that such diseases were indicative of God's punishment for sin in an individual's life. They are, however, incompatible with the presence and glory of God. They serve in this way as a "picture" of sin. Israelites could worship while sick, but could not enter God's presence in a state that was not whole. For the chronically ill, their hope lay in their future resurrected body, which would not undergo corruption. Similarly, believers today await the time when God will make their corruptible flesh incorruptible and the mortal will put on immortality (cf. 1Co 15:53–54). The healing God grants today is a token of the promise that He will ultimately heal believers' bodies forever.

17:11–19. Luke again (for the third time cf. 9:51; 13:22) mentioned that Jesus was **on the way to Jerusalem** (17:11). On the way he was confronted by ten lepers (17:12). He did not immediately heal them but sent them **to the priests** (17:13) an act that would be appropriate for one who was healed from leprosy (cf. Lv 13:2, 3; 14:2–32), and on the way **they were cleansed** (Lk 17:14). However, only one (**and he was a Samaritan**, 17:16—a people who were, in the prevailing view of the Jews of the pharisaical type, not acceptable to God) turned to glorify God, to acknowledge that Jesus had healed him, and to give thanks to Jesus (17:15). Jesus commended his **faith** (17:19). The principle here is that even those in low religious standing (as the Samaritans were, in the opinion of the Jewish people in Jesus' day) were able to acknowledge and believe in Jesus. But the religious leaders of Israel, who should have been most sympathetic to Jesus and His teaching, were unwilling to embrace Him.

LESSON NUGGET – The ten men believed that Jesus could help them, and He did. The Samaritan not only brought joy to Christ's heart but received salvation from His hand: "Your faith has saved you!" When God answers your prayers, be sure to tell Him "Thank You!". Faith is not just for healing, but for wholeness. Worship brings us into the place of wholeness.

Sources: Moody Bible Commentary, Standard Lesson Commentary, The Essential Everyday Bible Commentary and Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the New Testament