

# The healing of the ten lepers



Luke 17:11-19

*In the borderland of Samaria and Galilee, ten lepers asked the Lord Jesus to have mercy on them. He told them: "Go and show yourselves to the priests." (The priests decided whether someone was (still) leprous and consequently unclean.)*

*The sick men faithfully followed Christ's instruction; on the way to see the priests all ten were healed. Only one of them, a Samaritan, returned. He praised and glorified God and thanked the Lord Jesus for healing him. Jesus Christ asked him sadly: "But where are the other nine? Have none of the others come back to give thanks to God?"*

The children understand the gratitude of the healed man and know that the Lord Jesus is happy when we are thankful. They are urged to thank God.

**F**or some time now the Lord Jesus has been wandering from village to village with his disciples. He tells them of his Father in heaven and about God's future kingdom. Time and again his care and concern for the sick is particularly noticeable. He does not only heal bodily ailments, however. It is of far greater importance to him that the soul is healthy. In order to bring this about, he wants to establish a belief in God within them.

Today the Lord Jesus and his companions are approaching a small village. Not far from it they meet ten men suffering from leprosy. From a distance they call out to Jesus Christ: "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" The Lord Jesus hears them and says to the sick men: "Go and show yourselves to the priests!"

1

The ten lepers are not surprised at this instruction. Trustingly and without hesitation, they set off to show themselves to the priests. The people they come across along the way shrink back in horror.

The men look at one another while they are walking and suddenly notice that they have all been healed! One of them immediately turns round and hurries back to the Lord Jesus. He

wants to thank him for this wondrous cure! All the way back, he praises and glorifies God aloud. Everyone who sees him wonders why he is so joyful and happy.

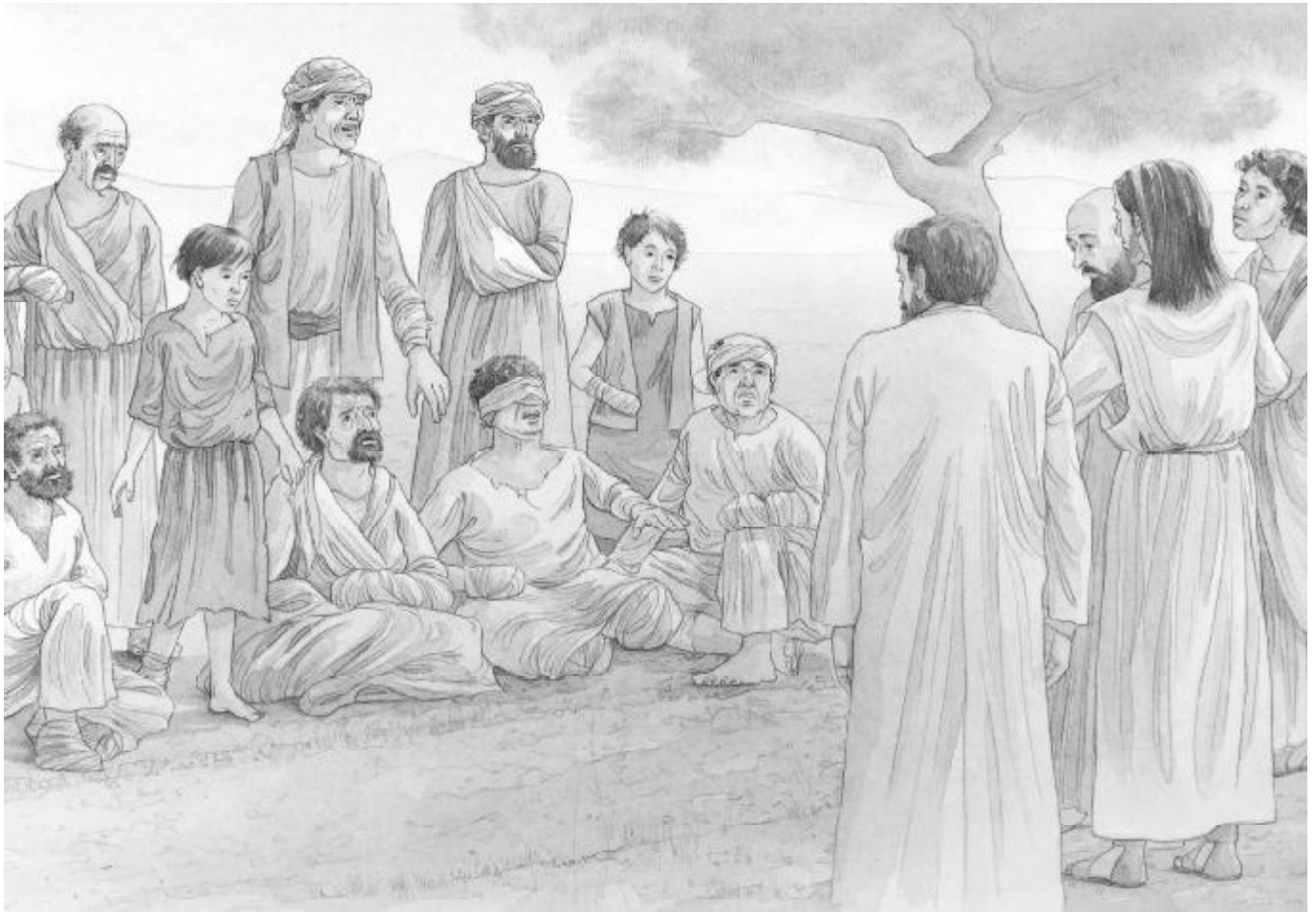
When the man reaches the Lord Jesus, he kneels down before him and thanks him with all his heart for his miraculous cure. Jesus' disciples note with amazement that the man showing such deep gratitude is a Samaritan. He belongs to a people living in Samaria that is despised by the Jews. The man's thankfulness makes Jesus Christ very happy. But then he sadly asks: "Have not ten men been healed? Where are the other nine? Has no one else come back to praise and glorify God?"

The disciples are dismayed at this and remain silent. It saddens them and also gives them food for thought that the other nine men have gone their way without a word of thanks, without praising and glorifying God.

The Lord Jesus says kindly to the Samaritan who is still kneeling in front of him: "Get up and go; your faith has made you well."

Jesus Christ and the disciples continue on their way. The Lord Jesus does not have to say much to them about these happenings—they have all learnt a lot today.

2/3/4



*The Lord Jesus healed ten lepers. Only one praised God and thanked him for this wonderful cure.  
Jesus Christ had to ask sadly: "But where are the other nine?"*

- 1 We discuss the picture. How do these lepers live? (They have been driven out by their families. They are dependent on people leaving food for them on the outskirts of the village. Only there are they allowed to fetch it. When they approach someone, they must give early warning so that the person keeps his distance.) We explain to the children why the Lord Jesus asks the sick men to show themselves to the priests. (The priests at that time had to examine those who had fallen ill. And it was they who decided who was cured and allowed back to the village.)**
- 2 What do the disciples, and we ourselves, learn from the ten lepers? (Nothing should be taken for granted. We must be thankful and show this. God and his Son rejoice over those who are truly thankful.)**
- 3 What do the children think of this grateful man? (He is an example, he has done well etc.)**
- 4 For what can the children thank God?  
We say a prayer of thanks.**