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~ **The Leper Who Gave Thanks** ~

You can learn much more about this story by doing these three things:

1. Read Luke 17:11-37.
2. Discover key cultural and historical insights.
3. Answer the reflective questions.

1. Read the text of the story.

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John 11:1-46 NASB	John 11:1-46 NLT
<p>¹¹ While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing 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 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 has made you well.”</p> <p>²⁰ Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; ²¹ nor will they say, ‘Look, here <i>it is!</i>’ or, ‘There <i>it is!</i>’ For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.”</p> <p>²² And He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. ²³ They will say to you, ‘Look there! Look here!’ Do not go away, and do not run after <i>them</i>. ²⁴ For just like the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the</p>	<p>¹¹ As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. ¹² As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, ¹³ crying out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”</p> <p>¹⁴ He looked at them and said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy.</p> <p>¹⁵ One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, “Praise God!” ¹⁶ He fell to the ground at Jesus’ feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan.</p> <p>¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Didn’t I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to the man, “Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you.”</p> <p>²⁰ One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?”</p> <p>Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. ²¹ You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”</p> <p>²² Then he said to his disciples, “The time is coming when you will long to see the day when the Son of Man returns, but you won’t see it. ²³ People will</p>

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Son of Man be in His day. ²⁵ But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. ³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses *his life* will preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁵ There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left. ³⁶ [Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.] ³⁷ And answering they *said to Him, "Where, Lord?" And He said to them, "Where the body *is*, there also the vultures will be gathered."

tell you, 'Look, there is the Son of Man,' or 'Here he is,' but don't go out and follow them. ²⁴ For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other, so it will be on the day when the Son of Man comes. ²⁵ But first the Son of Man must suffer terribly and be rejected by this generation.

²⁶ "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. ²⁷ In those days, the people enjoyed banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and the flood came and destroyed them all.

²⁸ "And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot. People went about their daily business— eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building— ²⁹ until the morning Lot left Sodom. Then fire and burning sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Yes, it will be 'business as usual' right up to the day when the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ On that day a person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. A person out in the field must not return home. ³² Remember what happened to Lot's wife! ³³ If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it. ³⁴ That night two people will be asleep in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding flour together at the mill; one will be taken, the other left."

³⁷ "Where will this happen, Lord?" the disciples asked.

Jesus replied, "Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near."

2. Discover key cultural and historical insights

From Bruce Molina, Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels

1. Jewish tradition said lepers were to wear torn clothes, let their hair hang loose, and cry out "unclean, unclean."

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2. They were to live alone, outside the city although they could beg at the city gates during the day.
3. Touching a diseased person rendered one unclean until evening.
4. Purity systems drew boundaries to protect societies and to provide a norm for what was allowed and not allowed. Those people, activities, places, and food within the boundaries were clean and those outside were unclean. One unclean activity was to touch leprous people.
5. From 296 ff
 - Numbers 5:2-3 – out of the camp
 - Lev 13:46 – about hair and clothing
 - Lev 14:2ff – showing to a priest and cleansing
6. In honor shame societies, social equals do not thank each other. They do thank superiors for the benefits received. He shows that he has no resources except to say thank you.

From Geldenhuys, Commentary on the Gospel of Luke

1. It was against the law for lepers to enter a city
2. The twofold breaking of the law
 - lepers were not to enter a city
 - people were not to touch lepers
3. Leviticus 14 gave the procedure for showing self to a priest, giving an offering, and being declared clean. But Jesus already declared him clean.
4. For a testimony to them – that he follows the law of Moses and he is the Messiah.
5. He was full of leprosy – the Greek is pleres which in medical terminology of the first century meant infected.
6. Passing between the border of Galilee and Samaria, crosses at Beth-Shan into Trans-jordan and would stay in that region until he crossed over the Jordan again at Jericho.

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Answer these reflective questions.

When you read the story of the ten lepers and only one giving thanks to Jesus for the healing, does it cause you to think of areas in your own life where you have received blessing and have not given thanks? Take some moments and reflect on the blessings God has given you, and give thanks to him for them.

Jesus said that the kingdom of God has come upon the earth. He said it was the midst of his people. If the kingdom of God means his reign on earth, in what ways is Jesus reigning in your life now? Have you embraced him as the Lord of all in your life?

In Luke 17:20-21, Jesus warned his disciples against deceivers. In what ways are deceivers in the world today?

What do you think is the main lesson from the stories of Noah and Lot in 17:26-30? Do you think those stories are applicable for us today?

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In the place where you live, are there many being saved, or just a few? How can you share your faith with others?
