

 COGIC Sunday School Lesson: Lesson 11, May 10, 2026, "Saying Thanks"

Luke 17:11-19

Bible Basis: Luke 17:11-19

Bible Truth: Luke tells us that one of the men who had leprosy returned to thank Jesus.

Memory Verse: "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God." (Luke 17:15)

Lesson Aim – Key Takeaways

1. Obedience often comes before the blessing
 2. God's mercy reaches everyone, but not everyone responds
 3. Gratitude is more than manners—it's worship
 4. Gratitude leads to a deeper encounter with Jesus
 5. Jesus notices both the gratitude and the absence of it
 6. Faith is revealed in how we respond after the blessing
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Names that Matter:

Jesus: The healer

Leper: Someone who has contracted the disease of leprosy.

Priest: the only ones who could declare anyone clean

Location: On his way to Jerusalem passing through Samaria and Galilee

 **Lesson Overview**

As Jesus travels toward Jerusalem, He encounters ten men with leprosy — a disease that isolates and shames. All cry out for mercy, and Jesus heals them. Yet only one returns to thank Him. This story teaches that **faith leads to obedience**, and **gratitude completes healing**.

- “Leprosy” covered various skin diseases ([Leviticus 13](#)). Lepers lived outside settlements and cried “Unclean!”
 - The healing directs them to priests ([Leviticus 14](#)) for restoration.
 - The lone Samaritan’s “loud voice” glorifying God ties to [Psalm 30:2](#). His gratitude underscores that mercy transcends ethnic boundaries ([Luke 10:33](#)).
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The Lesson: Luke 17:11-19

[11](#)And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

[12](#)And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

[13](#)And they lifted up *their* voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

[14](#)And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

[15](#)And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

[16](#)And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

[17](#)And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine?

[18](#)There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

[19](#)And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

What’s Happening Here?

The Cry for Mercy (vv. 11–13)

1. Jesus is traveling toward Jerusalem

This is important because **everything Jesus does on this journey is intentional**. He’s moving toward the cross, and every encounter reveals something about His mission.

He passes **between Samaria and Galilee**, a border region where:

- Jews and Samaritans normally avoided each other
- Outsiders and the marginalized often lived
- Leprosy colonies were common

This sets the stage for a miracle that crosses social, ethnic, and religious boundaries.

2. Ten lepers approach Him — but from a distance

Leprosy made people:

- ceremonially unclean
- socially isolated
- physically disfigured
- legally required to stay far away

So they “stood afar off” because the Law demanded it.

But distance didn’t stop their desperation.

3. They cry out for mercy, not healing

They don’t say, “Heal us.”

They say, **“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”**

That’s deeper.

They’re asking for:

- compassion
- attention
- intervention
- dignity

They’re acknowledging Jesus’ authority (“Master”) and His heart (“mercy”).

4. Jesus gives them a command, not a cure

He says, **“Go show yourselves to the priests.”**

Why?

Because according to Leviticus 14:

- only a priest could declare them clean
- only a priest could restore them to society
- only a priest could give them their life back

Jesus is telling them to act **as if** they are already healed.

This is faith in motion.

5. The miracle happens *as they go*

This is the turning point.

They are not healed when Jesus speaks.

They are not healed when they turn around.

They are healed **while walking in obedience.**

This reveals a major spiritual principle:

Sometimes God moves after we obey, not before.

Their healing is tied to their willingness to trust Jesus enough to walk toward a priest while still visibly diseased.

Obedience becomes the pathway to their healing.

Teaching Point

- They recognize Jesus’ authority and compassion.
- Their cry shows faith — even before healing comes.
- They stand “afar off,” symbolizing how sin separates us from God.

Faith begins with calling on Jesus in humility.

7. The miracle happens “as they went”

Not before.

Not instantly.

Not while standing still.

The healing happens in motion.

This shows a spiritual pattern:

- Sometimes God moves **after** we take the step.
 - Sometimes the breakthrough comes **during** obedience, not before it.
 - Sometimes the miracle is waiting on the other side of the first act of faith.
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Jesus doesn't touch them or speak healing directly. He simply says:

“Go, show yourselves to the priests.”

As they obey, **they are cleansed.**

Teaching Point

- Healing happens **as they go** — obedience activates faith.
- Jesus honors the law (priests confirmed healing) but transforms it with grace.
- Faith is not passive; it moves when Jesus speaks.

Obedience is the pathway to blessing.

The Return of One (vv. 15–16)

In **Luke 17:15–16**, the spotlight shifts from the group to **one man**, and what he does, reveals the heart of true faith. These verses show the *difference between receiving a blessing and responding to the Blessor.*

1. One man notices the miracle

Verse 15 says:

“**And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back...**”

All ten were healed, but only one *stopped long enough to recognize it*.
This is more than physical sight — it's spiritual awareness.

What's happening:

He realizes something supernatural has happened, and instead of rushing to the priest, he turns back to the One who made it possible.

2. He responds with loud, public praise

“...with a loud voice glorified God...”

He doesn't whisper.

He doesn't keep it private.

He doesn't wait until later.

He praises God immediately and openly.

What's happening:

His gratitude erupts into worship.

His healing becomes a testimony.

3. He falls at Jesus' feet

Verse 16:

“And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks...”

This is the posture of:

- humility
- surrender
- worship
- recognition of Jesus' authority

He's not just thankful — he's acknowledging Jesus as the source of his restoration.

4. He is a Samaritan — the outsider

“...and he was a Samaritan.”

Luke includes this detail intentionally.

What's happening:

The *least expected* person becomes the *most grateful*.

The outsider becomes the example of true faith.

The one with the least religious privilege shows the greatest spiritual insight.

This is the moment where the story shifts from **healing** to **heart transformation**.

One man — a **Samaritan** — sees he is healed and returns, shouting praise to God. He falls at Jesus' feet, thanking Him.

Teaching Point

- Gratitude flows naturally from a heart touched by grace.
- The Samaritan's return shows that true faith recognizes **who** healed, not just **what** happened.
- He worships, not just rejoices.

Gratitude is the mark of genuine faith.

The Question of the Nine (vv. 17–18)

In **Luke 17:17–19**, Jesus responds in a way that exposes the hearts of the healed men, honors the one who returned, and teaches a powerful lesson about gratitude, faith, and true wholeness. These verses are the *emotional and theological climax* of the story.

1. Jesus asks three piercing questions (v.17–18)

Jesus says:

- **“Were there not ten cleansed?”**
→ *I blessed all of you.*
- **“But where are the nine?”**
→ *Only one came back.*
- **“There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.”**
→ *The outsider is the only one who responded rightly.*

These questions reveal:

- **Jesus notices gratitude — and the lack of it**

He doesn't overlook the nine.

He doesn't shrug it off.

He calls it out.

- **Gratitude is a spiritual act, not just good manners**

Jesus connects thanksgiving with **giving glory to God**.

- **The Samaritan's response is shocking and beautiful**

The one who returns is the one least expected to understand Jesus.

Yet he becomes the model of true worship.

Teaching Point

- Many receive blessings; few return with thanks.
- Ingratitude reveals spiritual blindness.
- Gratitude keeps our hearts close to God.

Faith without gratitude is incomplete.

The Declaration of Salvation (v. 19)

1. Jesus gives the Samaritan something the others didn't receive (v.19)

Jesus says:

“Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.”

This is huge.

The nine received healing.

Their bodies were restored.

The one received wholeness.

His **soul** was restored.

The Greek word for “made thee whole” is *sozo* — the same word used for **salvation**.

This means:

- He didn't just get his skin back
- He got his relationship with God back
- He didn't just get cleansed
- He got changed

Jesus is saying:

“Your gratitude revealed real faith — and that faith has saved you.”

2. Jesus affirms the man's worship and sends him forward

“Arise, go thy way...”

Jesus doesn't shame him for returning instead of going to the priest.
He honors his decision.

The man came back bowed down — Jesus sends him away standing tall.

Teaching Point

- The others were healed physically; this man was healed **spiritually**.
- Gratitude deepens faith and brings wholeness.
- Jesus connects faith, obedience, and thanksgiving.

Gratitude turns healing into wholeness.

Bringing It All Together

Main Truths

1. Faith calls out to Jesus in need.

2. Obedience activates God's power.
 3. Gratitude completes the work of faith.
 4. True worship flows from thankful hearts.
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Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus send the lepers to the priests before healing them?
2. What does the Samaritan's gratitude teach us about true faith?
3. How can we show gratitude to God in daily life?
4. Why do you think the other nine didn't return?
5. What does it mean to be "made whole" by faith?