

Bite Size Bible Study

Healing of 10 Lepers #114

By Pastor Lee

Even though we read a scripture 50 or 100 times there is always a chance that we miss an important truth in it.

My daughter, Mary, and I were talking one evening and the subject of Jesus healing the ten lepers came into the conversation. She pointed out a point that I had never considered. Ten men were healed of leprosy but only one man came back to thank Jesus and praise God.

I had always seen that truth but what she brought out was an eye opener.

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

*Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; **your faith has made you well.**"*
(Luke 17:11-19 NIV)

People suffering from the skin disease of leprosy were treated as outcasts. There was no cure for the disease, which gradually left a person disfigured through loss of fingers, toes and eventually limbs.

They had to leave their homes and families and live together with other sufferers on the outskirts of the town and were forbidden to have any contact with people who did not have the disease. They had to ring a bell and shout "unclean" if anyone approached them. They could not go to the market place and were not allowed to take part in worship services.

Anyone with a skin disease that seemed to be cured (most unlikely with leprosy), was required by Jewish Law to go the priest to be checked before they could re-enter society. This is why Jesus sent the ten to the priests.

Presumably all ten passed the inspection and went on to live normal lives. But there was this one that was different. He had passed the inspection but felt obligated to do more.

Let's look at two other translations of the bolded in verse 19 above.

*Get up, you may go; **your trust has saved you.** CJB*

*Get up and go. **Your emunah (faith) has delivered you.** OJB*

There were ten men healed of leprosy but only one came back to praise God. What was Jesus saying to this one man?

your faith has made you well NIV

your trust has saved you. CJB

Your emunah (faith, faithfulness, fidelity) has delivered you OJB

Clearly there was something different that happened to this one man. Was he made well, saved, or delivered?

Words can be important when we study scripture. Sometimes a different word can open a whole new concept.

This man had faith and trust in the God that he knew. He had probably lived with the leprosy for many years, but his faith in God was not dampened by his condition.

His faithfulness to God had **delivered** him from the leprosy condition he had been in. Just as his **faith** had made him well physically, that same fidelity had **saved** him spiritually. It had matured his faith and trust in God.

Often we have a condition, either physically, mentally or spiritually, that causes us to question why God would allow us to endure such a condition. Why would a Good God allow these things to be a part of our lives (or the lives of others)? James answers:

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that **you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.** James 1:2-4*

May our tests and trials be maturing us as God's Children

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