**Healed and Cleansed by Jesus**

Based on [Luke 17:11-19](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Lk17.11-19)

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Today’s Gospel lesson is an account of Jesus healing ten lepers, but only one returning to him to thank him. **This gospel teaches that Jesus is merciful, eager to bless and heal those who ask him, and he has authority over all sickness and even over the law itself.** He is the eternal word who has authority over all creation, and by healing ten lepers he demonstrates his authority over sin and death.

Jesus is merciful; eager to heal and to cleanse. During his time on earth, whenever someone asked Jesus for help or mercy or healing, he always gave it. From the time his ministry begins in the Jordan and ends at the cross, he never fails to heal, and to help, and to give to anyone asking for mercy. And so, when ten Lepers ask him for mercy, he simply gives it to them.

They were healed in more than one way. First…because they no longer had leprosy…the same way you might be cured of cancer or heart disease. The actual illness, the physical infirmity is gone. But Jesus miracle did more than that. He had mercy--not only in healing them—but also in **making them clean** before God and men.

Under the Old Covenant, Leprosy made you unclean before the holiness of God and amongst his holy people (Lev. 13). Unclean people could not worship at the temple; they could not participate in the religious life of God’s people, or even live among them. This is why these ten lepers stood at a distance from Jesus when begging him for mercy. We learn from Leviticus that they were unclean and were forbidden to come near to God or to contaminate other people. And so Jesus, when he healed their leprosy, that also made them clean, and restored them to God and to their own people.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, he cleansed creation from all ceremonial uncleaness. Physical disease cannot make you unclean, because by baptism you have been sanctified, the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon you. Just as god has declared all food clean that once was unclean; so in baptism he declares all his people holy.

And this is a lesson in thankfulness. Many of us, perhaps all of us, have never had to fight for our country, but have lived our whole lives in a relatively free society. That freedom came at a price. Two World Wars were fought to secure it, and they weren’t fought by you. **And yet today we see a thankless generation of youth that believe freedom is their birthright, just as several generations ago the youth spit on soldiers who fought a war they had been given the freedom to protest.** I fear our civilization is raising up generations of adult children who don’t realize that the things they have enjoyed their whole lives come at a price, because they’ve never had to pay it.

Likewise, we may be a generation of Christians who, like nine out of ten lepers, forget to return thanks to the master who bought us. You have never had to worry about a disease or diet making you unclean in the sense of being unholy**. Don’t forget to return to Jesus daily and thank him for making us clean and holy so that we are no longer victims of evil, and that nothing that goes into the body can make us unclean.** External things like food, Sabbaths, disease and death they can no longer cause you shame and reproach. Therefore we can suffer all things, bear our infirmities, deal with our diseases; because they no longer separate us from God.

But at the same time, do not be deceived. The devil never misses an opportunity to twist God’s word around and apply it out of context. So today every form of perversion and immorality is paraded around with pride. **They call it pride, we know that pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before the fall (Proverbs 16:18)..** Jesus has made all food clean, yes, but he has not made sin clean. **Works of the flesh always were unclean and still are unclean: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outburst of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division (Gal. 5:19-20).** Works of the flesh drive out the Holy Spirit and, those who do them will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But Jesus cleanses us from all uncleanness and sin. He has washed away your filth, do not return to it. **Instead walk in the Spirit who abides in faith and who produces in you love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**

Jesus cleanses us from all sin and uncleanness, ceremonial or other wise so that we no longer need to fear them. But his healing of the lepers also frees us from another enemy, the fear of death. Every ailment of the body, leprosy and all others, are attacks on our health and are a result of the curse of the law. **The wages of sin is death, but death has been defeated by the conquering Christ**. Death has no dominion over him. Demons writhe and flee from his presence; the storms on the ocean cease at his word; and death is disarmed by the one who was sent by the Father and who teaches with authority.

There are those today who would use this passage to teach that if you have enough faith, Jesus will heal you. That’s ironic, because he healed all ten lepers, but only one had the faith to return to Jesus and thank God. And if Jesus came only to heal physical ailments for the present life, he did a precious poor job of it. **If he came to heal, why didn’t he heal everybody? Why is there still disease? Is it because the diseased don’t have enough faith?** What a fine gospel that would be. But that is exactly what the Pentecostals and charismatics have done. Look at the shame they heap once again upon the sick. Kenneth Copeland and other false shepherds who get fat off of the sheep. The Lord rebuke them! Jesus came to separate physical disease from spiritual uncleaness so that even the weakest and lowliest have equal access to God, and now look what has happened the fanatics return to the vomit of the Law teaching that you’re sick because you lack sufficient faith for healing. By no means. Jesus rewards the weak faith of a father who confesses, “I believe, help my unbelief.”

So if Jesus did not come to preach a social gospel of earthly healing, why did he heal? He healed to display to the world his power over death, and to point forward to his own resurrection and the resurrection of all on the last day. In his death and resurrection he has conquered every illness, virus, disease, and blight so that they can never do you any real harm. He has conquered death itself. **These diseases can cause you suffering and struggle in this life, but your body is dying anyway.** Jesus once healed to show that he had authority over death and the law. But now, because of the resurrection, we know that death will not have the last say. It’s just a sleep you’ll wake up from. “**O death where is your victory; O death where is your sting**.” Gone, because Jesus disabled it, and he has nothing left to prove.

But you have something to prove. There is no greater calling for the Christian than to face death with confidence in Christ who will receive you into paradise. **Death is just the culmination of a sickness that Jesus will heal in due time.** Pray for healing in the present, but also for patience in the Spirit you have received to face all trials an illnesses.

[**27**](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-27.htm)**Why do you say, O Jacob,and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?** [**28**](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-28.htm)**Have you not known? Have you not heard?The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.** [**29**](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-29.htm)**He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.** [**30**](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-30.htm)**Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;** [**31**](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/40-31.htm)**but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:27-31).**