

## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #223

### Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem

#### Miracle #31: Jesus Heals Ten Men at a Distance With Just a Word

LK 17.11-19

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus was traveling along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood back at a distance (13) and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

14 Because he saw them, he said, *"I command you to go and show yourselves to the priests."*

And while they were going along, they were cleansed.

15 Because he saw he was healed, one of them turned around and came back, while giving glory to God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself down at Jesus' feet as he kept on thanking him--and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus questioned him, *"Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? (18) Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"*

19 Then he said to him, *"Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you permanently whole."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	The Border Between Galilee and Samaria
Timeline	March (Month 38)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VII: Jesus' Ministry in Perea
	C. Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem
Title	I. Miracle #31: Jesus Heals 10 Men at a Distance With Just a Word

#### COMMENT:

Luke's narrative of Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem, which took the entire month of March to complete, begins with another spectacular miracle. It is similar in many ways to the first miracle Jesus performed in his Great Galilean Ministry (DJN #47; JN 4.46-54).

In both cases, Jesus healed at a distance with just a word, and the miracle first required the obedience that is the product of faith to be exhibited, before it occurred. The difference in the two events was that two and a half years earlier in Galilee, Jesus healed one young man. In today's reading, he simultaneously healed ten men--of leprosy (or some other deadly skin disease).

As we have seen in past DJN readings, leprosy was a special illness because it caused a person to be ritually "unclean" under the ceremonial law, and it therefore erected a barrier to fellowship with "clean" people. The ten

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men therefore stood at a distance from Jesus, and cried out with pleading, desperate voices for him to have mercy on them by healing them. Isolation was a terrible emotional and psychological component of leprosy.

Jesus instantly responded by commanding the men to go and show themselves to the priests. This command was simultaneously a promise of healing for them. Part of the ceremonial ritual for the healing of leprosy was official pronouncement by a priest that the person was then "clean" under the law. A special sacrifice was also prescribed.

Note that Jesus did not first heal the men. He gave them a command that required faith and obedience to work together in their response. They started out the journey as lepers, in obedience--about to look like fools when they arrived at the priests to present themselves--and somewhere along the way they were all instantly healed. Faith enabled obedience, which led to the fulfillment of the promise of healing.

Healing forced a decision upon the men. What would they do first?

One man out of the ten--a Samaritan by birth--decided that he must first return to Jesus and glorify God by expressing his gratitude. When he did so, Jesus' response made it clear that he expected the other nine men to have done the same thing. Giving glory to God was the least they should have done.

Remember that this text was immediately preceded in Luke by Jesus' teaching that 100% obedience is the mere minimum in our relationship with God (LK 17.5-10). Taking the time to first worship and glorifying God with thanksgiving was the least they ought to have done.

The worship scene with Jesus and the healed leper demonstrates two tremendous truths.

The first is yet another proof that Jesus considered himself to be fully God. The text says twice that the man was **"giving glory to God"** (17.15, 18). The second reference came from the lips of Jesus himself. How did the man **"glorify God?"** By falling at the feet of Jesus to give thanks and praise to HIM. In other words, Jesus is the God that the healed man rendered glory and honor to as his healer.

Jesus accepted glory as God, and plainly expected the other none healed men to do the same. There can be no doubt that Jesus considered himself to be worthy of the glory that belongs to God alone.

The second truth is more subtle, but it is equally powerful. Leprosy had separated the men from fellowship with people, and God, because they were banned from synagogues, and more importantly, the Temple. Note that they men had to call to Jesus for healing from a distance. Once healed and "clean," they were no longer separated from God any longer. The healed man went straight into Jesus' presence--throwing himself at his feet and no doubt hugging them to his face.

This man was the only one to avail himself of the privilege of access to God's presence in his Son.

### APPLICATION:

Those of us who believe that Jesus is our "God Who Saves" have been "healed" of something far more terrible than leprosy. Jesus set us free from the sin that banishes us eternally from God's presence. We now have open access not just into the Temple, but into the "Holy of Holies"--the most intimate fellowship with God that is possible in the universe! How many of us seldom take advantage of this access?

How often do you come to God every day, just to say "thank you," and tarry with him in his presence? He shed his blood in unspeakable agony of body, soul and spirit just to bring you into the closest possible union, and fellowship with God.

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*Are you among the one among the ten who does take full advantage of access to God's presence, by spending time alone with him? Are you a person who makes it your first priority every day to take time to thank and glorify God?*

*How can you more regularly honor Jesus for opening up access to God's presence to you?*