

- I) V11 INTRO: Now it happened *as He went to Jerusalem* that He passed through the midst of
 - a) NOTICE HOW LUKE WRITES: He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee
 - 1) From Galilee, He would travel south to Beth Shean, go east, travel south, and cross at Jericho
 - 2) Jesus took this long detour to avoid any confrontations with Samaritans

- II) THERE WAS: A great deal of hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans that was centuries old
 - a) QUOTE: The Jews cursed them, and believed them to be accursed. Their most merciful wish to the Samaritans was that that they might be annihilated
 - 1) Jn 4:9 The Jews have no dealings with Samaritans
 - 2) They would not sit down to meals with them, drink out of the same cup or well, would not borrow anything from them, had no commercial dealings with them
 - 3) BECAUSE OF THIS: Jesus would take this detour

- III) KEY: Luke has been recording events as Jesus has been journeying to Jerusalem
 - a) He had already made it clear that there was a conflict between Jews and Samaritans
 - 1) Lu 9:51-56 It came to pass, when the time had come for Him *to be received up*, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But *they did not receive Him*, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

- IV) V12 THEN: As He entered a certain village there met Him *ten men* who were *lepers* who stood afar
 - a) JESUS: Is in an area called Trans Jordan, on the eastern side of the Jordan River
 - 1) While He is entering an unnamed village, ten lepers approach Him with a request

- V) IT WOULD SEEM: That they had already heard of the works He had been performing
 - a) Jesus has been performing many works: This included cleansing lepers
 - 1) Lu 5:12-13 It happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on *his* face and implored Him saying, Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean. Then He put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed". Immediately the leprosy left him. He charged him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded". However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.

- VI) LEPROSY WAS: The most feared disease in the ancient world: *It was incurable*
 - a) L. S. Huizenga, in his book *Unclean, Unclean* describes leprosy in this way
 - 1) Leprosy generally begins with pain in certain areas of the body. Numbness follows. Soon the skin in such spots loses its original color. It gets to be thick, glossy, and scaly...As the sickness progresses, the thickened spots become dirty sores and ulcers due to poor blood supply. The skin, especially around the eyes and ears, begins to bunch, with deep furrows between the swellings, so that the face of the afflicted individual begins to resemble that of a lion. Fingers drop off or are absorbed; toes are affected similarly. Eyebrows and eyelashes drop out. By this time one can see the person in this pitiable condition is a leper. By a touch of the finger one can also feel it. One can even smell it, for the leper emits a very unpleasant odor.

- I) **KEY:** Of the 61 defilements in ancient Judaism, it is second only to touching a dead body
 - a) God gave specific commands relating to this disease in Lev 13
 - 1) Lev 13:45-46 The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp.

- II) **KEY:** Leprosy was regarded as moral; it was a symbol of sin, so lepers were rejected
 - a) In scripture, leprosy is a graphic illustration of sin
 - 1) Like sin, it infects the entire person, is ugly, corrupting, contaminating, alienating, and incurable outside of a touch by God
 - 2) **FACT:** The Rabbis knew that no prayer, offering, or ritual could cleanse a leper

- III) **KEY:** These lepers were taking a chance by calling out to Jesus
 - a) They could face rejection, but their condition moved them to step out and ask
 - 1) They had heard that He had done so for others, so why not ask Him to do this for them
 - 2) Jas 4:2 You do not have because you do not ask.

- IV) **V12-13 IN OBEDIENCE TO LEVITICAL LAW:** They remain a distance away and call out to Him
 - a) V13 Jesus, Master, have mercy on us
 - 1) Ps 103:10-11 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him

- V) **V14 SO:** When He saw them He said to them Go show yourselves to the priests And so it was that as
 - a) He does not touch them: He simply commands them to go to the priest to show they are healed
 - 1) This is in keeping with the Law (Lev 14)
 - 2) **NOTICE:** They all had leprosy, they all wanted to be cleansed, they all believed Jesus could cure them, they all asked Him to cleanse them, they all went to the priests, and they all were healed

- VI) **V15-16 AND:** *One of them* when he saw that he was healed returned and with a loud voice glorified God
 - a) Though they were all cleansed, only one of them actually thanked Him for such a work
 - 1) 90% of them did not even say thank you

- VII) **AS HE WAS WALKING:** He began to feel better, and physically sensed that he was being cleansed
 - a) With deep joy, he immediately ceases walking to the headquarters of the priest, and returns
 - 1) When he sees Jesus, he falls down on his face at his feet and humbly gives Him thanks
 - 2) Ps 30:11-12 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, To the end that *my* glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.
 - 3) Ps 107:20-22 He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions. Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.

- VIII) **KEY:** The symbol of death, living death, was removed with just a word, received by faith
 - a) This is what happened to us when God touched us and took our sin
 - 1) Eph. 2:1-2 As for you, *you were dead in your transgressions and sins*, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

- I) **KEY:** When we cried out in humility and faith He cleansed us from our sin and He restored us
 - a) This former leper was to offer sacrifice and to force the priest to acknowledge that a miracle had been performed by Jesus: even so, we also are living evidence of the cleansing power of God
 - 1) 1 Jn 1:9, 2 Co 5:17

- II) **V17 SO:** Jesus answered and said Were there not ten cleansed But where are the nine
 - a) There was only one who returned to give thanks to the Lord for what He had done
 - 1) I wonder if this is the normal ratio of gratitude?
 - 2) Ps 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
 - 3) 1Ch 16:34 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.
 - 4) 1Th 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- III) **V18 WERE:** There not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner
 - a) **WHAT MAKES THIS INTERESTING:** Is that the person who returned was not Jewish
 - 1) Jesus makes it clear that this man is a foreigner (alien, from a different tribe)
 - 2) The ones who should have shown thankfulness did not, but this one did

- IV) **POINT:** As a Samaritan, his theology was not sound because it was a hybrid belief system
 - a) The Samaritans were a hybrid race with a pagan worship system
 - 1) This developed when the Assyrians transplanted various people into Samaria
 - 2) 2 Ki 17:33 They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods--according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

- V) **IN SPITE OF THIS:** He immediately recognized that his miracle *had come from God*
 - a) With this knowledge, he returned to give praise to the One who cleansed him
 - 1) Ac 10:34-35 Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.
 - 2) Ps 50:23 Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God."

- VI) **V19 AND:** He said to him Arise go your way *Your faith* has made you well
 - a) It was his faith in Jesus, not simply that he had faith
 - 1) Faith is only as good as the object it is placed in
 - 2) His faith was in Jesus, whom he knew could heal him