

Remnant Life Church
May 23, 2021
“Supernatural: The Work of Jesus
The Ten Lepers”
Part 5
Luke 17:11-19

The story of the 10 lepers is about many things that fit within our current study of the supernatural

- It is certainly about gratitude, which is what most people think of first
- Often used at Thanksgiving (I have)

- But it is also about the various responses of people to the supernatural when it occurs
- Because of that it also shows us why so many people do not recognize when God is doing something in their life that does not fit within the realm of what can be easily explained

Read [Luke 17:11-19](#)

There are the two things that we just read that need more explanation in order for the context of the story to be better understood

- Leprosy in the Bible
 - The word leprosy is used in the Bible to describe a variety of skin diseases
 - This particular type is probably what is referred to today as Hansen’s Disease
 - It is a bacteria that manifests itself in white patches on the skin which will deaden or numb the nerve endings of the area
 - Injuries to the body are not felt and a deterioration begins to occur if not treated
 - The face is most often affected meaning that the symptoms cannot be hidden
 - A couple of those in the Bible
 - [2 Kings 5](#) – Naaman the Syrian general
 - [Matt 26](#) – Jesus at the home of Simon the Leper
 - Leprosy is also an accurate reflection of sin what it does in a person’s life if left untreated
 - It spreads
 - It usually does not kill you but neither does it ever seem to end
 - It becomes something very ugly in the person
 - In the Old Testament, there were very specific laws regarding leprosy (all skin diseases) designed to protect the Israelite camp from its spread when they were traveling through the desert for 40 years
 - [Lev 13:1-46](#)
 - This is why Jesus tells the 10 to show themselves to the priests – it was the law

- So, who were these 10 men – what do we know about them?
 - Since only one is pointed out as a Samaritan it means the other 9 must have been Jews

The second contextual element that must be understood

- The Samaritan people were the result of a crossbreeding of Jews and non-Jewish people, in particular the Assyrians following the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC
 - The Jews were not slaughtered but deported and scattered throughout Assyria and Mesopotamia
 - The king of Assyria then continued to import other captured people who all began to intermarry with the Jews
 - The resulting offspring were obviously not of pure Jewish lineage and were considered unclean and looked down on by those who were of a pure bloodline
 - Not only were they ethnically unclean, but a mixed religion also emerged from that region that combined Judaism with paganism creating an even greater divide between Jews and Samaritans
- To understand the origin of the Samaritan people is to understand the significance of when they appear in the Scripture
 - The disciples are horrified when they discover Jesus sitting alone and talking to a Samaritan woman in [John 4](#)
 - Jesus uses the example of a Samaritan helping the wounded man along the road to Jericho in the parable of the Good Samaritan found in [Luke 10](#) to answer the question of who my neighbor is
 - It is not about your heritage, it is about your heart
 - It is why we read in [Acts 8](#) that Peter and John went specifically to many Samaritan towns to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - The message of God's love was for everyone
- We know that they called out to Jesus
 - Jesus often asked people what they wanted him to do for them ([Mark 10](#) – Blind Bartimaeus)
 - Jesus also often put his hands on people to heal them but in this instance he only spoke to the men
 - Jesus did not always follow the customs of the day but He always followed the law of the Scripture
 - The Mosaic law said do not touch a person with leprosy
- Notice something important about what took place
 - Jesus did not say to them, you are now healed
 - In fact they were not yet healed when they left His presence
- When did their healing occur?

- When they got to the priest?
 - On the way?
 - When they decided to obey Jesus and go?
 - We do not know
 - But their faith was tested immediately just as the priests in the Jordan River in **Joshua 3**
- Whenever it occurred, they were all healed yet only one came back
 - Not Jesus' fellow countrymen the Jews, but the "foreigner" – the hated Samaritan
 - If you think about it, this man was probably the outcast of the outcasts
 - The other 9 probably had very little to do with him and he only stayed because they were all confined to that group
- Have you ever thought or asked yourself, "What possible reasons would those other nine have for not coming back to thank Jesus?"
 - Consider these possibilities:
 1. One waited to see if the cure was real
 2. One waited to see if it would last
 3. One said he would catch up with and thank Jesus later
 4. One decided he never actually had leprosy
 5. One said he would probably have gotten better anyway
 6. One gave the glory to the priests
 7. One said "Jesus really didn't do anything"
 8. One said "Any Rabbi could have done this"
 9. One said "I was already feeling a lot better"
- Now how many of those sound very familiar to the excuses many people use today?
 - And not just any people, but especially Christians?
 - I mean, don't many of those sound like what you hear today when God does something wonderful in someone's life?
 - Be assured, when we do this, we rob ourselves of receiving the full blessing of learning more about the nature of God

These are also very often the same responses many people will have when encountering the supernatural things of God

- What have we determined over the last couple of months of this series?
 - God's work, His realm, is the supernatural
 - The definition of that word, again, is simply anything that it is beyond the natural
 - meaning what we can grasp, understand, or explain as being everyday acceptable behavior or activity
 - God is outside of the natural
 - The world must always be able to explain what takes place otherwise they are forced to acknowledge the presence and power of God

- Now, how can I keep from becoming one of the nine?
 - It begins with humility
 - Second, acknowledge and give God all the glory
 - Third, desire His will for your life so that you can focus on His blessings not on what you want
 - Fourth, resist the urges to grumble and complain
 - The Bible gives warnings against grumbling all throughout
 - Moses to Jesus chastising His disciples
 - Finally, live expectantly
 - **Psalm 5:3** - *In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.*