

## Think Again . . . Reconnecting with Jesus

KSBC 10/05/08

Thinking Again About the Faith that Saves

Luke 17:11-19

**INTRO** Imagine 10 helpless and hopelessly diseased men being instantly cured and restored to health. Just think of the celebration that would follow. The amazing twist of the story is seen when only one actually went to the healer and expressed gratitude. The other nine went away to enjoy their new life without any recognition of the gift they received. The contrasting responses become the lesson of the story as the one who returned to express gratitude was then granted a comprehensive healing that the others did not receive.

This story is recorded in Luke 17:11-19. Jesus is the healer and the ten men have leprosy. The story ends with Jesus declaring that the faith of the one who returned had saved him. If we had been present at this former leper's baptism, we would certainly have heard this story. This is the story of how he was saved. These stories of people expressing saving faith are piling up in Luke's careful account of Jesus life and teaching. Think of them . . .

Simon Peter the fisherman	5:8-11
A paralyzed man	5:20-26
Roman centurion	7:9
Sinful woman	7:50
Sick woman	8:43-48
Samaritan leper	17:19
Blind beggar	18:42
Zacchaeus the tax collector	19:1-10

These are some of the people whose lives were changed, they were saved. Their stories are recorded by Luke to help us understand first that Jesus has the power to save people and second, how people can be saved. Each of these 'testimonies' describe a hopeless despair, a recognition of Christ power to save, a turning to receive his help and a clear response of gratitude and submission to God. That is how a person is saved from the wrath of God that has piled up against them for years of failing to obey him, ignoring his goodness and giving your affections to lesser, man made gods.

### Read Luke 17:11-19

Do you have a real life story about Jesus like this Samaritan leper? What is it like? Let's look at what distinguishes his response from the other nine. If we can understand his faith and why Jesus commended it, then we know what to look for in our own lives to determine if we have faith that saves. Let's trust God to use the leper's testimony (along with Chuck's and Clarence's) to open our understanding in new and fresh ways.

I pray that some of you this morning, how about 1 out of 10, will cry out to God for mercy, recognize what Christ has done for you, turn and fall at Jesus feet in humility and submission as you loudly declare your gratitude and praise to God. Remember also that saving faith is in reality the same faith that the follower of Christ lives by day after day. What is your faith story? How does it compare to the Samaritan leper's story?

The leper's faith can be understood by noting and examining three distinct phases or characteristics that distinguish his response from the others and draw the commendation of Christ as seen in verse 19.

## **Faith that saves is marked by . . .**

### **1. Crying out for help. 13**

An urgent request for mercy/help includes . . .

- Recognition of the unique authority of God. Master cmp Peter 5:5

- An admission of hopelessness. "I need help that only you can give."

Cmp. Leprosy – distance, hopelessness, certain death

Explain hopelessness of sin's grip . . . depravity, guilt and inability

Illus. hopelessness from sinful woman 7 and sick woman 8

Illus. lostness from L15

### **2. Having seen God's help, turning back to embrace him. 15**

A turning back to God is personalizing what God has done. He did this for me.

- Seeing God's help for you in Christ.

Illus with leper's healing

Explain with Christ's life and death.

Cmp 1Peter 2:24-25

- Turning from your own way to embrace God.

Return and praise 18

Personalize God's help in Christ by forsaking your own ways – see the hand of God in curing you and let everyone know

Repent -16:30 humility of the centurion 7:7 brokenness of woman 7:38

### **3. Acknowledging the rule of God in Christ in your life. 15-16**

Pleasing God becomes the primary concern of values and behavior.

- Absolute delight toward God for showing you mercy.

Praise and thanks

Psalm 30

Col. 1:11-14

- Humble submission to Christ as his servant.

Cmp 7:18-23 this is the 'one who was to come.' 14:25-27

## **I've Got It! I Know What I'll Do!**

1. I will cry out to God to save me right now.
2. I will renew my commitment to God to live my faith in these ways.
3. I will praise and thank God loudly for his mercies in saving me.

## **Study Questions**

1. What questions, observations or impressions do you have from the study on Luke 17:11-19?
2. Read Luke 17:11-19. What are key words or phrases? Is there a theme that ties the verses together?
3. Tell your story of 'being saved' by God to your group. Evaluate how your stories match up to the model of the Samaritan leper.
4. What are some behaviors, attitudes or habits that cause you to doubt your or someone else's salvation? Does believing that you are a Christian mean that you in fact are? Why?
5. Of the three characteristics or phases that distinguish the one leper from the nine, which one is most overlooked or misunderstood in your opinion in gospel ministry in your world?
6. Do these three phases from the leper's story equal saving faith or do you think they are in addition to trusting in Christ? Why?
7. Share with your group your praise and thanksgiving to God for his recent mercies and power in your life.
8. What do you want to do, use or remember from today's study?