

Deliverance from Leprosy

Scripture:

Luke 17:11-19 *“Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”*

Introduction:

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease which attacks the skin, peripheral nerves and mucous membranes (eyes, respiratory tract). Leprosy victims often lose feeling in hands and feet. Consequently they are unaware when they burn fingers or puncture feet and hands. Unfelt injuries lead to ulcerated wounds and often to amputation. Leprosy can be a crippling disease if it is not treated early.

Jesus touched people with leprosy. People with leprosy traditionally have suffered banishment from family and neighbors. Jesus broke with tradition, treating people with leprosy by touching them.

Spiritual leprosy is just as crippling as natural leprosy. People with spiritual leprosy lose the ability to sense the moving of the spirit of God. They no longer see when God is at work in their lives and/or the lives of those around them. They lose touch with spiritual reality and simply go through the motions of religion. Spiritual lepers usually don't know they have this dreaded disease because of their inability to see spiritual reality and believe they are doing “just fine”

I. The consequence of spiritual leprosy (Re: Lev. 22:4; Nu. 5:2)

Leviticus 13:45 *“Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.”*

- A. His spiritual garment will be torn, not presentable.
- B. He will have no spiritual covering.
 - 1. He will be so insensitive that he cannot discern the authority God has placed in his life.
 - 2. His vision will be so marred that he cannot see his need of spiritual covering.
- C. His actions will eventually demonstrate to those around him that he is not in proper alignment with the body of Christ.
- D. The end result will be that he has no relationship with the body of Christ and he dwells in a solitary place.

II. Naaman the Leper

II Kings 5:9-14 *“Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, “Indeed, I said to myself, ‘He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.’ Are not the Abanah and the Parpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.”*

- A. He almost missed his day of deliverance because he was too insensitive to hear the command to go.
- B. His eyes were so blind that he could not see that God had provided a better way than that which his mind could conceive of.
- C. His blindness and insensitivity caused him to react in anger instead of in worship to God for His provision.

III. Getting deliverance from spiritual leprosy.

- A. Get your mind fixed on where the Holy Spirit is going, not on the religious exercises that might have worked in the past.
- B. Enter into worship and praise with the understanding that Christ will enter into His throne room and sit on his throne upon the praise of his people.
Psalm 22:1-5 "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent. But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed."
 - 1. When He sits upon His throne, He is ready to execute judgment, issue decrees, and make proclamations.
 - 2. Notice the progression in these verses. First we call on God in our distress, then we worship Him, and then He brings deliverance.
- C. Even though we may not see deliverance immediately, we "go our way".
 - 1. We continue to do the things that we are to do as a Christian and as a fulfillment of the call of God upon our lives.
 - 2. Sometimes some effort is required that we may not feel like making.
 - a. The disciples had to go fishing to get the money for their taxes. (Matthew 17:27)
 - b. The disciples had to cast the net on the other side of the boat to bring in the great catch. (Luke 5:4)
 - c. They had to fill the water pots to have the wine at the wedding. (John 2:7)
 - 3. "As they went" they were delivered.
- D. Don't forget to return to God with Worship.
 - 1. The truth is there will only be a remnant of true worshippers.
 - 2. God blesses a lot of people that never really testify to his greatness.

Conclusion

- A. Let's shake off the effects of the world so that we will not develop spiritual leprosy.
- B. Let's begin to pay attention to how God is moving and move with Him.
- C. Let's be quick to agree with God, even if it means we have to repent or acknowledge we're wrong.
- D. Let's make a commitment to be those who worship God in spirit and in truth.