

## TERMINAL AND THANKFUL

1. Text: Luke 17:11-19
2. Here is a simple story of Christ's power to heal and help. And this lesson will be centered in an analogy or comparison with what happened physically in the healing and what happens spiritually to us in salvation.
3. Let's show five comparisons:

### I. **The Terminal Condition**

1. Leprosy in the ancient world was a slowly progressing and incurable skin disease. It was a fatal death sentence. Ten had the disease.
2. It was terminal. Actually all of us are terminal; we will eventually die. As one writer said, "The statistics on death are quite impressive."
3. Compare leprosy to sin and its result: Our sins condemn us to eternal punishment and separation from God.
4. Romans 3:10 There is none righteous, no, not one. Verse 23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 6:23 Wages of sin is death.

### II. **The Desperate Cry**

1. Desperate: having lost all hope, undertaken out of extreme urgency.
2. These ten knew their fate: slow, excruciating death. Normally, hopeless.
3. But in "Jesus, Master" stood a ray of hope and they made their appeal.
4. What else could they ask for? They asked for mercy. It was an act of grace, unmerited favor.
5. And so it is with our sin: Romans 3:24 "Being justified freely by His grace. John 3:16.

### III. **The Anticipating Command**

1. Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priests. Why? Leviticus 14:3. To confirm the healing.
2. But He knew in advance: Verse 14: "As they went, they were cleansed."
3. The lepers' obedient faith brought them the merciful healing.
4. Mercy does not exclude any act of obedience we are asked to do. Matthew 7:21. Hebrews 5:10.

### IV. **The Marvelous Cure**

1. The incurable was cured. Unclean made clean. I John 1:7
2. Our sins no matter how many or vile can be forgiven. Romans 5:10 When we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His son.
3. Romans 5:6 When we were still without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

### V. **The Thankful Character**

1. Verses 15-18 make the tragic point that only one of ten returned to give thanks to the Lord.
2. How grateful are we for the spiritual healing of our sins? How do we express that gratitude?
3. At heart of our motivation as Christians? Force? Duty? Gratitude?
4. Elders' recent letter encouraging assembling? Response? What better way to show gratitude for His mercy?

Conclusion: Terminal and thankful?

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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