



Christ Teaches Appreciation Man Healed from Leprosy

Living in the Image of God Module 02 Session 11

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Living in the Image of God

- God creates every person to represent him in interactions with others
- Be for others what God would be for them if he lived with us in human form
- He provides resources for people to perform the responsibilities and blesses those that do
- Program seeks to understand the meaning, resources, and human responsibilities and benefits of *Living in the Image of God*

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What We Will Learn

- Appreciation and testimony regarding appreciation are important to God
- Interactions with man healed of leprosy
- One of ten men healed during the events
- Returned to testify and show appreciation
- Jesus criticized the nine
- Congratulated the one and released him
- Luke 17:11–19

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Ten Men With Leprosy

- Met Jesus on his way to Jerusalem
- Called for his kindness from a distance
- He directed them to go show themselves to the priests
- They became clean on their way to show themselves to the priests
- Luke 17:11–14

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Luke 17 (NIV)

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance

13 and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

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Healing by Faith

14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

- Priests had authority to declare a person had leprosy or had been healed from leprosy Leviticus 13:40–46 [Not read in session]
- “Go show yourselves to the priests” was a healing by faith
- Healed on the way to report to priests

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One Man Returned to Give Thanks

- When he realized he was clean
- One of the men returned to Jesus
- He threw himself down and thanked Jesus
- Luke 17:15–16

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

16 He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

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Jesus Rebukes the Nine

- Jesus criticized the nine
- They did not return to testify
- They did not return to show appreciation
- Luke 17:17–18

17 Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?”

18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?”

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Criticism of the Nine

- Their response to the healing was different from God expects from favor recipient
 - Appreciate the favor
 - Show appreciation by giving testimony
- The nine men did not care to show appreciation.
- Jesus criticized them for failing to show appreciation.

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Jesus Congratulates the One

- Acknowledged the one that returned to testify and show appreciation
- Declared the healing interactions complete
- Released the man
- Luke 17:19

19 Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

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What We Learned

- Christ teaches appreciation and testimony through interactions with man healed from leprosy
- Appreciation is important to God
- Testimony completes appreciation and is important to God as part of appreciation
- Jesus congratulated one man that returned to testify and show appreciation
- He criticized nine that did not return to testify or show appreciation

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Christ Teaches Appreciation—Man Healed of Leprosy

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Interactions with a man healed from leprosy convey a message that God expects a recipient of favor (benefit provided by others) to appreciate the favor, appreciate the benefactor, and appreciate God for empowering the benefactor. Further, he expects the recipient to show appreciation by giving testimony. Also, his expectation of a favor recipient is the same even for those that could claim the favor as an entitlement. The man was one of ten healed in the event but he alone returned to give thanks. Christ criticized the nine but acknowledged the one and confirmed his faith had healed him.

We discuss Christ interactions with a man healed of leprosy to understand that God expects appreciation from every recipient of favor (i.e., benefit provided by others) and expects the recipient to show appreciation by giving testimony. Even if the favor is done to fulfill an entitlement, God expects appreciation and testimony from the recipient. As we discuss previously in [Understanding Appreciation](#), appreciation means thankful recognition of benefits received, the human provider of the benefits, and God that empowers the provider. Testimony regarding appreciation provides opportunity to share the information with others and inspire them (especially the benefactor) to do more likewise.

The man was one of a group of ten men that Christ healed from leprosy during the event. However, only the one man (a foreigner) returned to give thanks. The other nine did not return. Jesus criticized the nine for failing to return to show appreciation, notwithstanding they could claim to be entitled to the favor because they were Jews from Israel. We learn from his criticism that their response differs from what God expects of a favor recipient. In contrast, his interactions with the one man that returned convey a message that appreciation and testimony regarding appreciation are important to God.

Appreciation pleases God. He wants every recipient of favor to appreciate the favor, appreciate the benefactor, and appreciate God for empowering the benefactor. Furthermore, he wants the recipient to show appreciation by giving testimony. Also, his expectation of a favor recipient is the same even for those that could claim the favor as an entitlement.

Ten Men with Leprosy

Ten men that had leprosy encountered Jesus on his way to Jerusalem along the border between Samaria and Galilee. The men were in a group and stayed away from other people as required by law. From a distance, they called out to Jesus and asked for his kindness [Luke 17:13]: “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” Jesus directed them to go show themselves to the priests: “When he saw them, he said, ‘Go, show yourselves to the priests’” [Luke 17:14].

His instruction meant they should report to the priests to be examined believing they will be clean by the time they got to the priests. The men accepted the instruction by faith and proceeded to report to the priests. They became clean on their way.

Healing by Faith

Under Jewish law at the time, priests had the authority to declare that a person had leprosy or that a person had been healed from leprosy (Leviticus 13:40–46). A person declared to have

leprosy was required to isolate from other people. In contrast, a person declared to have been healed from leprosy was permitted to re-integrate into society.

Therefore, Christ's instruction to "Go show yourselves to the priests" contained a promise that they will be healed by the time they got to the priests for an examination. The men accepted the healing by faith and proceeded to report to the priests. They were healed on their way.

One Man Returned to Give Thanks

When they realized they were clean, one of the men turned back and returned to Jesus to give thanks. He threw himself down and thanked Jesus [Luke 17:15–16]: "One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan."

Jesus Rebukes the Nine

Jesus criticized the nine that did not return. They were healed but did not return to show appreciation [Luke 17:17-18]: "Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?'"

His criticism conveys a message that the nine failed to respond to the healing as was expected of them. God expects appreciation from every recipient of favor (i.e., benefit provided by others). He expects the recipient to appreciate the benefit, appreciate the benefactor, and appreciate God for empowering the benefactor. Furthermore, he expects the recipient to show appreciation by giving testimony. The nine failed to respond to their healing accordingly and Christ criticized their behavior.

Entitlement Not Exempt from Appreciation

Christ criticism of the nine also shows that God's expectation of a favor recipient is the same even for those that could claim the favor as an entitlement. The one man that returned to give thanks was a foreigner (a Samaritan) whereas the nine that did not return were Jews from Israel. The nine could claim to be entitled to favors from Jesus because "...I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel [Matthew 15:24]." However, even favor recipients with such a claim are expected to appreciate the favor and show appreciation by giving testimony.

Therefore, Jesus criticized the nine vehemently for failing to return to give thanks [Luke 17:18]: "Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?"

Jesus Congratulates the One

Jesus acknowledged the one man that returned to give thanks. He congratulated the man and declared his healing complete: "Then he said to him, 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well'" [Luke 17:19].

He congratulated the man for responding to the healing as was expected of him: i.e., he recognized he was healed, recognized Jesus as the benefactor, and thanked God for the event. Furthermore, he testified publicly to show appreciation. Christ congratulated him as a recipient of healing by faith: "your faith has made you well."

Summary of What We Learned

Interactions with a man healed from leprosy convey a message that God expects a recipient of favor (benefit provided by others) to appreciate the favor, appreciate the benefactor, and appreciate God for empowering the benefactor. Further, he expects the recipient to show appreciation by giving testimony. Also, his expectation of a favor recipient is the same even for those that could claim the favor as an entitlement.

The man was one of ten healed in the event but he alone returned to give thanks. Christ criticized the nine but acknowledged the one and confirmed his faith had healed him.