

TEN LEPERS

Monday

Luke 17:11–19

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men with leprosy met him. Sores covered their bodies, and no doctor could help them. Lepers were required by the law to stay away from other people. Others were afraid of catching leprosy from them. If lepers thought they were getting better, they were to go to a priest, who would look closely at their sores to see if the leprosy was really gone. Only then could lepers go back to live with their families. These ten men stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." They believed that Jesus could help them.

When he saw them, Jesus said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." The men turned to go, and, as they went, they were completely healed. Their sores were gone! When one of them – a man from Samaria – saw that he was healed, he came back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice. He fell down on his face at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" It bothered Jesus that not one of the Jewish lepers returned to praise God for the healing. They should have known better.

Then Jesus said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Jesus healed the men from the awful, deadly sickness of leprosy. Jesus heals us from the awful

- **Why is leprosy such a terrible sickness?**
- **How did Jesus heal the lepers?**
- **What blessings have you forgotten to thank God for?**

Close with a prayer of thanksgiving.

JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

Tuesday

Mark 2:1–12

The people in Capernaum had heard about the miracles Jesus had done in other places. When he came to their town, they were eager to see him. Crowds gathered inside and outside of the house where Jesus was preaching.

While Jesus was there, along came four people carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They wanted Jesus to heal their friend, so he could walk again. But the crowd was so large that there was no way the men could get him through the doorway to Jesus. So the four friends carried the paralyzed man up to the flat roof of the house. They made an opening in the roof large enough for the mat to pass through. Then taking ropes, they gently lowered their friend into the house until he was right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he calmly said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Some teachers of the law heard Jesus' words. They wondered and thought to themselves, "Why does this man speak like that? Who does he think he is? Only God can forgive sins!" They did not believe that Jesus could or had the authority to forgive sins, because they did not believe that Jesus is God.

Right away Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he asked them, "Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'?" Then, to show them that he really is God and really can do what he says he can do (including forgive sins), as his friends watched through the roof, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "I say to you, get up, take your mat and go home." And immediately, the man got up. He picked up his mat and left.

Everyone was amazed. They praised God, saying, "We've never seen anything like this!"

Jesus healed many people while he was on earth. But more important than having our bodies healed, people need to have our souls healed and our sins forgiven. Jesus doesn't always heal us when we are sick or hurt. But he will always forgive our sins when we trust him as our Savior, who promises us eternal life. We can trust him, because Jesus has proven that he can do what he says he will do.

- **What did the paralyzed man need?**
- **How could Jesus know what the teachers of the law were thinking?**
- **How in your life has Jesus demonstrated power to heal and forgive?**

Close with prayer



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JESUS FEEDS 5,000

Wednesday

Matthew 14:13–21, 15:32–39

Jesus felt compassion for the people because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He welcomed them, spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed many of them. When the day was nearly over, Jesus' disciples came to him, saying, "Send the people away so that they can go into the nearby towns and villages and buy themselves something to eat, for they have nothing."

But Jesus replied, "They don't need to go anywhere. You give them something to eat."

Then Andrew, Peter's brother, said to Jesus, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two small fish. But what is this little bit among so many people?"

Jesus commanded that the people sit down in groups on the grass. They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties, and they numbered about five thousand men, plus women and children. Then Jesus took the five loaves and two small fish. He looked up to heaven, gave thanks, broke apart the loaves and fish, and gave them to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to those who were sitting down. When everyone had enough to eat, Jesus told his disciples to gather up the leftovers so that nothing would be wasted. The leftovers filled twelve baskets, much more than they had started with!

Another time when a great crowd gathered to hear Jesus, the people faced a similar situation. This time, they had been with Jesus for three days and had nothing to eat. Some had come from a far land to learn from Jesus. Jesus asked the disciples how many loaves of bread they had. The disciples counted seven loaves. Jesus had the people sit on the grass. Then Jesus gave thanks to God and broke the loaves. He gave the bread to the disciples to place before the crowd to eat.

Another miracle took place! All four thousand of those present had all they wanted to eat. When the people had finished eating, the disciples picked up seven baskets of leftovers! Jesus thanked his heavenly Father for the food the people were about to receive. God's people today thank God too for the food he provides for us each day.

- **In what different ways does Jesus feed us?**
- **What is your favorite food to eat?**

Thank you, Lord. All I am and have comes from you. I am glad that you give me so many wonderful things each day. Thank you for giving me good food and for the blessings of forgiveness and salvation. Please keep my faith alive and growing. I want to live with you forever. Amen.

WATER INTO WINE

Thursday

Acts 16:11–15

A family is a group of people united by a common set of parents or grandparents. People in the same family may look alike and enjoy doing the same things. When at their best, family members show love and care for one another. They sometimes travel great distances to share important events. Some of these may be happy. Others of these may be sad.

Jesus is the Son of God. But Jesus also had a human family. Because Jesus is a man, he liked going to events with others in his family. One time, Jesus attended a wedding with his mother Mary. Jesus' friends were also there. Weddings in Bible times usually included banquet parties that lasted many days.

During the wedding banquet, Mary came to Jesus to tell him about a problem. The banquet was running out of wine. Mary then asked the servants to do whatever Jesus would tell them to do. Jesus saw six large stone jars. He told the servants to fill up the jars with water. After they filled the jars, Jesus told the servants to take some of the contents and give it to the person in charge of the banquet. The water in the jars had become wine. Jesus had done his first miracle.

The head of the banquet commented on this very good wine. "Usually, people serve the best wine at the beginning of the party," he said, "but you have kept the best wine until now."

By this miracle, Jesus showed that although he is a real man, he is also truly God. And even though Jesus is God, he cares about everything that troubles and concerns people, even things such as running out of refreshments at a party!

Today, you likely have gathered with your family for an event that included a banquet that Jesus has provided for you. We are thankful that he continues to love us and care for us.

- **What are you thankful for most about your family?**

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on your cross to save all people. Thank you for my family. Help me to love and serve them. Help me to be thankful to you and to love and serve you all the days of my life. Amen.

LEPER

Friday

Luke 17:11–19

We'll end this week with the same story we started with this week. It's the Gospel story for Thanksgiving.

Once there were ten sick men. They had a skin sickness called leprosy. It was terrible. Other people did not want to be near them. The people were afraid they would catch the sickness too. People with leprosy lived by themselves out of town and had to stay far away from healthy people.

Jesus was not afraid of people with leprosy. He loved them, just as he loved healthy people. Jesus was walking along a road one day. The ten men with leprosy shouted, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Jesus felt sorry for them. Jesus told the sick men to go and show themselves to a priest. The priest was the one who decided whether sick people were healthy enough again to return to their homes in town near all the other people. While the men were on their way to see the priest, Jesus took away their sickness. Their skin became healthy. How happy they were to know that they could be with their families and friends again!

One of the men stopped running. He did not continue on his way to the priest. He turned back around and ran to Jesus. He thanked Jesus for taking away his leprosy. Even though Jesus loved, and blessed, and helped all ten men, only one of them said, "Thank you," to Jesus.

- **Make a list of ten things you would like to thank God for.**

Thank you for your many blessings, Lord. Make my heart ready to receive your love and blessings and to reflect your generosity with thanksgiving. Amen.