

**Erlo Stegen:**

Summary of sermon by Erlo Stegen, 21 July 2013

**Luke 17**

11 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Galilee where Jesus was is in the North of Israel and Jerusalem where Jesus was on His way to in the South and Samaria inbetween. We would therefore think logically Jesus left Galilee and passed through Samaria. But dr Luke records it otherwise. Jesus passed through Galilee, through Samaria and back to Galilee. Why?

There is no mistake here. He passed through Galilee, but as He reached Samaria, He returned to Galilee before going to Jerusalem, for there was still something to be done in Galilee. Can you see that God's ways are not our ways? Humanly speaking we would say it's inefficient to return on the way you are going.

By this we are shown the love, compassion and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everywhere the Lord Jesus went He preached, did good and healed the sick. His motivation was to do the will of His Father. He was driven by His love, mercy and compassion.

We just follow our common sense, but Jesus is not like us. His motivation differs from ours.

When Jesus became aware of the lepers in Galilee needing Him, He turned around to help them.

Jesus didn't live for Himself but for others. We first consider our own needs, but not so with Jesus. In that we see the love of Jesus demonstrated to you and me.

Jesus found these ten with leprosy, a terrible disease. They had to live in quarantine, alone in the mountains, separated from the families.

When Jesus came there they stood at a distance, shouting with a loud voice that Jesus would have mercy on them. The Bible says, if you seek God with all your heart you will find Him (Jer 29:13). You won't find Him if you just lightly pray to God to help you.

From where did they know Jesus? The people were speaking about Him, Jesus of Nazareth, who can help lepers and have mercy on them. And they believed them and cried out to Jesus.

The Bible says, "faith comes by hearing". You cannot believe unless you've heard. (Rom 10:17)

A boy was playing in a pool of mud but didn't realise there was a large hole close by and he fell into it. He couldn't get out and realised unless he got out quickly he would perish. At first he saw his father but kept quiet for he knew his father as a man with a bad temper. But not long after he saw his mother and knew she was compassionate and he cried out to her and she helped him.

**Completely healed**

**The people knew Jesus had compassion and therefore cried to Him for help.**

**When they cried out to Jesus, He instructed them to, "go and show yourself to the priests". They were only healed on their way. By their obedience, though not healed yet, they were healed.**

**Obey Jesus and you will see God's power working in your life. Even if you don't see anything yet, as you obey Him you will see His power working in your life.**

**Nine were Jews, and one a Samaritan. That one, when he saw that he was healed, returned to Jesus, fell at His feet and worshipped and thanked Him. He didn't think about his wife, children, family and possessions to return to them as soon as possible, but could only think of Jesus and to thank Him.**

**The other nine, though lepers, were still proud and such people are offensive to God. There was only one that returned to give thanks to God. He was not only helped halfway in his body but also in his spirit where his faith had made him whole. When he returned home his wife and children could see that he was not only healed physically, but he was a new father too, being healed spiritually.**

**It helps you nothing if you're healed physically but remain dead spiritually. You can speak about the great works of God but unless it reaches your heart and transforms you it helps nothing.**

**You might be blessed in your body and materially but unless you're blessed spiritually it helps little.**

**In your life too all the miracles God does help little unless you are helped spiritually where you are saved, your sins forgiven.**