



Sermon, Sunday October 9, 2022

“Your Faith has Saved You”

SCRIPTURE: Luke 17:11-19 ¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Introduction: Ten Healed of Leprosy

There are many stories of Jesus healing the sick in the four Gospels of the New Testament. One of the sick people Jesus healed was a leper. The ancient Jews viewed leprosy as a punishment for sin. So, the Jews quarantined the lepers out of town. Lepers suffered from loneliness because they were ostracized and alienated from their families and society. So, the lepers had an earnest desire to be healed.

According to today's text, on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. Jesus met ten lepers in a village. As he entered the village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "**Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!**"

This verse describes the lepers begging Jesus for help to heal them. Jesus saw them, and said to them, "**Go and show yourselves to the priests.**" Jesus commanded this because, according to Jewish law, those who were cured of leprosy could only return to society after their healing was confirmed by a priest and the offer of sacrifices (Leviticus 14:1-32).

Ten lepers obey Jesus' words and experience a miracle of healing while they are on their way to the priest. Only one of them, a Samaritan, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him.

After Jesus asks him where the other nine are, He tells the healed Samaritan leper, "**Your faith has saved you.**" This is what we read together today.

According to today's text, all ten lepers were healed through Jesus, but only one, a Samaritan, returned to give thanks to Jesus. What was the difference between the Samaritan leper and the other nine lepers? Today's text asks a question about the important essence of the Christian life that we should not forget. The first is the question of priorities in our lives. The second question is where our gratitude comes from.

Body: Two Questions

1. The question of priorities in life

According to today's text, ten lepers obey Jesus' command to show themselves to the priests. They are healed on their way to the priest. (v.14) This shows that the ten lepers have faith to obey Jesus' words. This belief is to be commended. However, the more important part of today's text is the reaction of ten lepers after they were healed.



Today's text 17:15-16 tells us. "Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan."

In this verse, one of the ten lepers who was healed returned to Jesus and confessed his gratitude. The leper who returned to Jesus was Samaritan who was not treated as a human being by the Jews.

The Jews considered the Samaritans to be mingled with other peoples' blood as well as religiously mixed with pagan religions and were considered lowly. So, the Jews greatly despised the Samaritans.

However, there is no clear mention in today's text that the other nine lepers were Jews. **However, Jesus says, "Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" (v.18)** From this verse it can be inferred that the remaining nine healed lepers were Jews.

For the remaining nine healed lepers, it was more urgent to show their recovery to the priests and return to the community. However, the Samaritan leper was different. As soon as he found out that he had recovered from leprosy, he turned around and went back to Jesus.

In today's text, Luke 17:19, Jesus said to the Samaritan leper who returned and expressed his thanks, **"Your faith has saved you."** This verse shows that Jesus valued the faith of the healed Samaritan leper.

Then, what is the attitude of the Samaritan leper that Jesus valued? It was that he put **'glory to God'** and **'thanks to Jesus'** in his life priorities over his own interests.

This fact is very important to our religious life. Jesus put the fulfillment of God's will before his own life. A Christian is someone who imitates Jesus. As our faith matures and grows, we prioritize doing the Lord's will over pursuing our own interests first.

Matthew 6:33 says: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." We often forget the words of Matthew 6:33 in our lives. But as Christians, the moment we change our priorities in life, our lives will eventually fail.

So, no matter how difficult or desperate our lives are, we must not make the mistake of changing our priorities in life. Don't forget that the Lord sees even our smallest hearts. Then, what is the second question about the essence of the Christian life that we should not forget?

2. Question about where our gratitude comes from.

Today's text Luke 11:17-18 says, "Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

This verse says that true faith must be accompanied by gratitude. In fact, many seek the Lord's help when they are in trouble, so they pray earnestly. Such belief is very precious. However, there is something we should be careful of. It happens after what we longed for has been accomplished. We often forget to be grateful after such an accomplishment. However, our bigger mistake and fault is that we don't know what we should really be thankful for.

When people get what they want, they are often not satisfied with it and forget the grace of the Lord and live according to other desires. Also, rather than thank the Lord for the grace he has given us, we are thankful for our wishes being fulfilled.

However, if we forget to give thanks to the Lord and simply be thankful that what we hoped and wanted came to be as we wished, we become even more discouraged or disappointed in the future when things do not turn out as we hope and desire. Furthermore, it may even deny our faith in the Lord. Ultimately, whether we can be truly thankful in life depends on our close relationship with God.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!



The gratitude that the Bible tells us is not forced or compulsory. The gratitude that the Bible speaks of can only be done by those who truly know and experience the grace of the Lord. And this kind of gratitude leads us and the community to joy and rest. Also, through this gratitude we can offer glory to the Lord.

In today's text, Luke 17:19, the Lord speaks to a Samaritan leper who was healed. **“Get up and go on your way; Your faith has saved you.”** This verse is the Lord's invitation to enjoy greater abundance in our relationship with Jesus. May all of you enjoy this abundance.

Conclusion: I hope that you can lead a life of faith faithful to the basics.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. It is very important how much time we pray, read the Bible, attend worship diligently, do church work, and serve our neighbors well in our lives of faith.

But more important than this is to always check our life priorities, and to check whether our gratitude is toward the Lord once what we want has been accomplished.

May we all be blessed by imitating the faith and gratitude of the Samaritan leper who was healed in today's text.

