

Where Are the Nine?

Luke 17:11-19

Our Lord passed along the border of Samaria and Galilee and encountered a group of ten lepers. They stood "afar off," segregated from society. The group included at least one Samaritan as this horrid disease made national barriers irrelevant. Leprosy was a fitting picture of the damning disease of sin which has infected each one of us. **Would that sinners could see their souls as the ten afflicted lepers saw their bodies!**

These lepers must have heard of Jesus' miracles of healing, and they cried out to Him for mercy and pity. The Lord did not touch them, nor command the disease to depart. Instead, He told them to go to the priest who would examine them to see if the disease were still there (Lev. 14). This implies a cleansing before meeting the priest. By faith the ten obeyed and began their journey, and they were healed on the way. **A current of heath and vigor rushed through every tissue of their bodies**. One leper, a Samaritan, returned, gave glory to God, prostrated himself in worship, and thanked the Lord for his miraculous cleansing. Jesus said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"

What a dramatic illustration of man's sinful ingratitude! "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful" (Rom. 1:21). To the one that did give glory to God Jesus said, "Thy faith hath made thee whole [saved thee]" (Luke17:19). **Whereas the nine were cleansed from leprosy, the tenth was also saved from sin!** Nine enjoyed cleansing of the body; one enjoyed cleansing of the body and soul. How thankful we should be every day for our salvation which cleanses the soul from sin: "**But ye are washed**, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus" (1 Cor. 6:11).



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