

THE  
**GOSPEL**  
PROJECT<sup>®</sup>

## Jesus the Servant

*Daily Discipleship Guide*

SUMMER 2020 | VOL. 8 | ESV



## Unit 22

# Jesus the Healer

## *Gospels*

### Memory Verses

“We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

—JOHN 9:4-5

# Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers

**SESSION IN A SENTENCE:** Jesus healed ten lepers who called for help but saved one who had faith.

**BACKGROUND PASSAGE:** Luke 17:11-19

A few years ago, I preached a sermon on Psalm 100, which is a psalm of thanksgiving. This topic was perfect for the Sunday after the Thanksgiving holiday. During part of our small group time in the week following, we discussed the sermon, and our group came to a startling realization—we weren't particularly grateful people.

Yes, we thanked the Lord when we prayed together and often when we prayed privately. And yes, we had good manners. We thanked all who served us in some way, big or small. But there is a difference between saying, "Thank you," and being grateful. You know as well as I do that sometimes a "thank you" is just the expected thing to say, like answering, "Fine," to those who ask how you are doing. Saying, "Thanks," can simply be the final step in a conversational ritual with little to no thought behind it.



Why do we have conversational rituals that require little to no thought behind them?

# Group Time

## Point 1: Infirmity leads to desperate cries to Jesus for mercy (Luke 17:11-13).

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee.  
<sup>12</sup> And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”

To be a leper was to be an outcast. Even God’s law instructed the community to separate themselves from the diseased (Lev. 13–14; Num. 5:2-3). But it wasn’t primarily the community’s responsibility to ensure this separation; it was the leper’s. As if the disease weren’t bad enough, self-imposed social exile was added to it. Lepers wore torn clothes, let their hair go, and were required to cry out, “Unclean, unclean!” They also had to live outside the camp or city (Lev. 13:45-46).



What are some ways people experience separation from God and others because of *sin*?

The lepers took advantage of their opportunity with Jesus. They had heard He could heal, so they cried out for mercy. In other words, they prayed for Jesus to intervene and help them. We tend to complicate prayer, adding certain words to make our requests sound important, but prayer is a simple thing. Every Christian’s new life begins and continues the same way: **calling out to Jesus for rescue.**

### Voices from the Church

“This is the kind of prayer that God loves to answer: a desperate cry for help offered in the name of his Son.”<sup>1</sup>

—Philip Graham Ryken

## Point 2: Healing leads to a grateful heart for what Jesus has done (Luke 17:14-16).

<sup>14</sup> When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup> and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

As Jesus turned to the lepers in mercy, He gave a simple command. He sent them on a path of obedience, and on the way, they found the healing for which they longed. Imagine if the lepers had done nothing. If they had delayed obeying Jesus’ word to them, they would not have found healing. On another occasion, Jesus touched a leper and made him clean instantly (Luke 5:12-14), so obeying Jesus’ command in this instance required a prolonged trust in Him to make them clean. It required obeying in faith.



What are some commands in Scripture that require obedience in faith?

Ten lepers found healing on the way to the priest, but only one turned around to find Jesus again. Ten lepers called out for mercy and received it, but only one thought to express his gratitude to his healer. Ten percent of those lepers whom Jesus healed returned to give thanks. How much thanks do we give to Him within our own hearts? Do we thank Him for even ten percent of His merciful gifts?

How often do you express thanksgiving to God for His work in your life?



Rarely, If Ever

Sometimes

More Often Than Not

Almost Always



What are some reasons you have for thanking God?

### Point 3: Faith leads to a greater salvation in Christ (Luke 17:17-19).

<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

The one former leper to return to Jesus was a Samaritan, a “foreigner,” as Jesus called him. That a Samaritan was the one to return is shocking and provided Jesus with a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate the reason He came. Presumably, the other lepers were Jewish men with a lineage that enjoyed the benefits of a relationship with God firsthand. The Samaritan, on the other hand, was not part of the people of God. Yet the Samaritan was the one to express worship to God and thankfulness to Jesus.



Why should a heightened sense of our own unworthiness lead to a grateful attitude and worship of God for our salvation in Jesus?

As the Samaritan fell before Jesus to thank Him and give glory to God, he received a word from Jesus weightier than any healing of any disease. He found the assurance of eternal salvation because He came to Jesus in faith. We find the same when we come to Him in faith. On the cross, Jesus met our deepest need we didn't realize we had. He came to save sinners from their sin, and by faith, we receive the salvation Jesus purchased through His death and resurrection.

**Justification by Faith:** Justification refers to the moment when a person is objectively \_\_\_\_\_ righteous before God based on the righteousness of Christ's atoning death. This act of declaration takes place through faith in \_\_\_\_\_ and not as a result of human \_\_\_\_\_ or effort.

# My Mission

Because we have been saved from our sin through Jesus, we live each day with deep gratitude and worship for what Jesus has done.

- **What will you give God glory for today?**
- **How can your group help others find community that honestly addresses sin without shame?**
- **How can your gratitude and worship to God for salvation by faith in Jesus help you share the gospel with others?**



## Voices from Church History

"O leprous sinner, go to Christ at once; go now, tarry not until thou hast left the sanctuary! Wait not until the sermon is over. It is written, 'To-day, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.'"<sup>2</sup>

—Charles Spurgeon  
(1834–1892)

## Notes

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# Daily Study

## Day 1: Read Luke 17:11-13

Every Christian has received the tender mercy of God (Luke 1:78), and Paul says God is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4). He isn't stingy. He doesn't ration His mercy to save enough for a rainy day. No, God is pouring out His mercy on us even now. It never ends. You can use up all you need today and there will still be more in the morning (Lam. 3:22-23).

But what exactly is God's mercy? God's mercy is His forgiving care of us—springing from, as Paul says in Ephesians 2:4, “the great love with which he loved us.”

God's mercy is His never-ending love for us, the undeserving. Looking upon us in our sin, God chose to forgive us in His Son. His mercy brought us near. We need a love like that—a love that's near. Distant love, no matter how sincere, cannot change us. All life-changing love must be warmly close. The love of God is *that* kind of love—an all-encompassing, all-sufficient, all-surpassing love. And it's ours because of His mercy.

That's what the lepers cried out to Jesus to receive. And He came near to give it to them.



How will God's merciful nearness change the way you live today?



## Day 2: Read Luke 17:14-16

“And as they went they were cleansed.” Imagine the joy. Imagine looking down at ruined skin and seeing it healed. Imagine looking at the men beside you to find faces not disfigured but whole. Cleansed!

The lepers’ cleansing came at an interesting time: “as they went.” Going was obeying. A leper would go to a priest so that the priest could determine if the disease was healed or not. These men knew before Jesus came that they were as sick as ever. But when He told them to go, they went, trusting that in the going—sometime between now and then—they would be healed. And they were.

Trusting Jesus comes before the healing. It’s while we’re going that we realize all that Jesus has done under the skin.



How does trusting Jesus for healing change your outlook today?

## Day 3: Read Luke 17:17-19

What is saving faith? It is comprised of three things, at least.

First, we must believe the right things about the true God. The leper believed that Jesus was worthy of worship. So he not only cried out for mercy at the beginning but also returned in worship at the end of his healing. He believed Jesus was more than a magician. He knew that God was present in Jesus to grant salvation.

Second, saving faith is an assurance that what we believe is true. The leper not only acknowledged who Jesus was, he also truly believed in Him. His knowledge didn’t stay at the surface level. It affected His worship.

Third, the leper acknowledged the personal implications of faith in Jesus. He returned in worship to Jesus not only because he knew the right things and accepted the truth of those ideas but also because he trusted Jesus and relied upon Him. The leper trusted that only Jesus could make him well because only Jesus *had* made him well.

Saving faith is just that—looking to the whole Christ for your whole need and knowing He alone can save.



How does salvation by faith set Christianity apart from all other religions and worldviews?

## Day 4: Read Luke 17:20-21

God's kingdom is different than the Pharisees expected. They were looking for a military and political revolution. Jesus was a meek and humble king. They wanted a strong arm of justice, burying his enemies beneath his feet. Jesus won through weakness, dying upon the cross. The kingdom did not come in observable ways. It came like leaven in bread, as a good seed planted deep in the ground. It came quietly but triumphantly. It wasn't visible all at once. No one could spot it coming on the horizon. But it came truly and powerfully.

God wins over the long haul. History bends toward His glory. In the end, of all the kingdoms of the earth, only God's will remain strong and sure, filled with those too weak for the kingdoms of this world but just perfect for God's. Those like the leper will be there, standing in a glorified body never to contract disease or experience death again. He who was cast out in this world was brought into God's.



How does knowing God accepts the weak into His kingdom free you to live before Him now?

## Day 5: Read Luke 17:22-37

Who would have thought the way God would win would be through rejection and suffering? How could the all-holy God above subject Himself to the horrors of crucifixion? Nonetheless, God planned to conquer this world through the cross. When God came down in Jesus Christ, the mission was set, the path was determined, the Son of Man came to die at the hands of His own people.

It should not surprise us that to save our life we must lose it. God's kingdom is an upside-down one where losing is winning, dying is living, and suffering leads to salvation.

It may look today like God's kingdom is losing, as if no one even knows it's here. But do not fear. The Son of Man is coming again. We don't know when it will be, but we know as sure as Jesus came once that He will also come again. And when He comes, His kingdom will reign forever and ever, and that rejection and suffering that was His once will be His enemies' forever.



How does the fact that Jesus was rejected and suffered help you understand the way God's kingdom is at work in this world?

# Encourage One Another

*Join together with 2-4 people from your group, or with your family, sometime during the week to reflect on the session and to share how God is working and you are responding.*

Share your thoughts and reflections on the truths from Scripture in this session:

- Infirmity leads to desperate cries to Jesus for mercy (Luke 17:11-13).
- Healing leads to a grateful heart for what Jesus had done (Luke 17:14-16).
- Faith leads to a greater salvation in Christ (Luke 17:17-19).



How have you responded to these truths from Scripture?



When have you felt the most desperate for Jesus?



How is a lack of gratitude also a lack of faith?

## Notes

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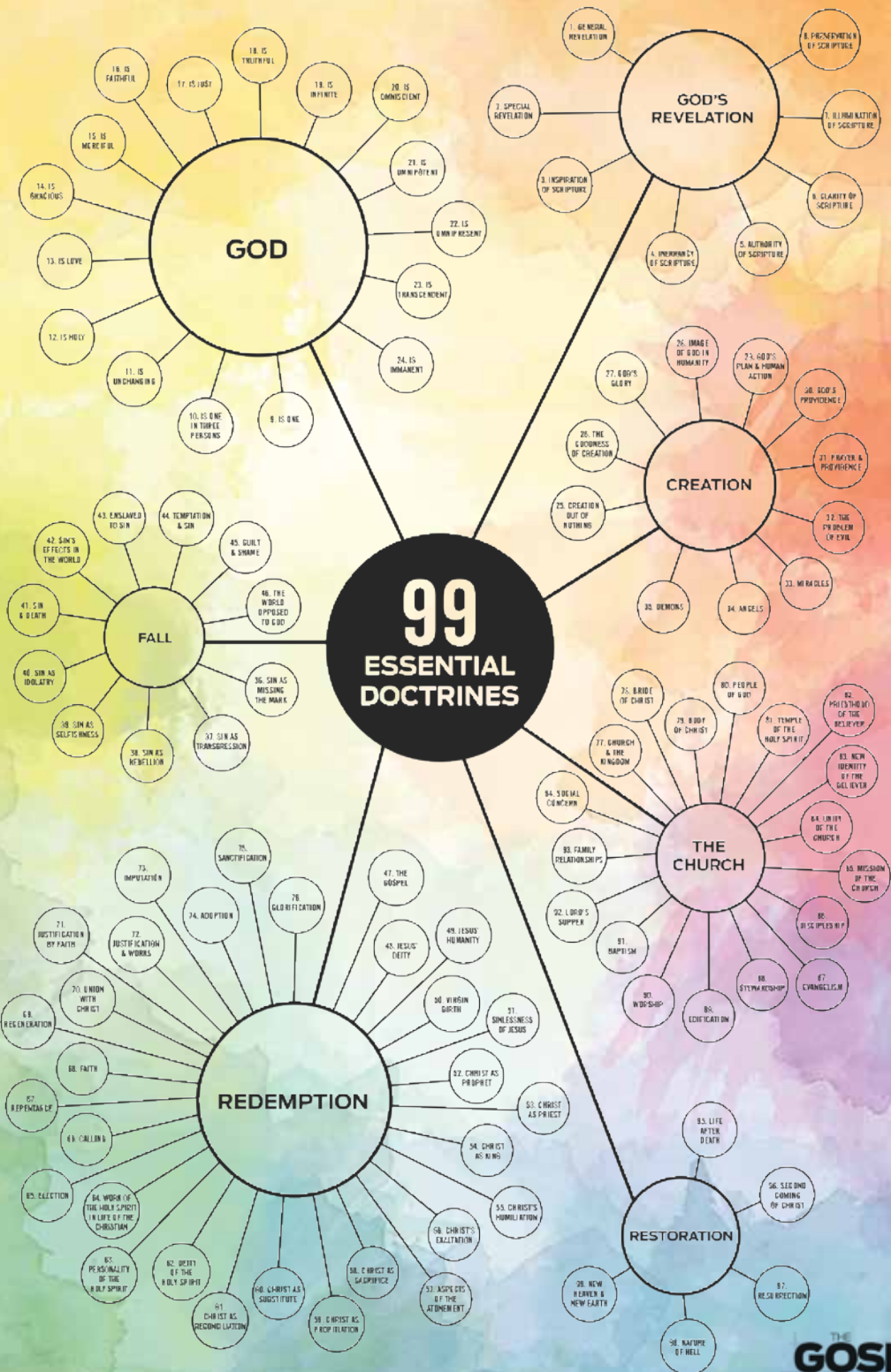
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# Jesus the Servant

Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and part of His mission was to demonstrate for the saved what their new kingdom would be like. So Jesus healed people of their diseases and frailty. He brought people back home; He brought people back to life; and He brought people to a saving knowledge of Himself, providing the healing from sin that we all so desperately need.

Jesus was a masterful teacher. He taught the truth and nothing but the truth. Plus, He completely embodied His teaching and was the perfect example of the truth He laid upon the ears of His hearers. He called His disciples to count the cost, to obey, to pray, to give, and to trust Him. Anyone who has ears to hear should listen.

In addition to healings, Jesus performed miracles that attested to the truth of His message and identity and also displayed His glory and power over the world that was created by Him, through Him, and for Him. Whether over the physical realm or the spiritual realm, Jesus is King, and those who come to Him in faith are miracles to proclaim His greatness, His goodness, and His gospel.

## What's Next?

### FALL 2020

#### Volume 9: Jesus the Savior

*Jesus and the Kingdom (Gospels)*

*Jesus the Savior (Gospels)*

*Jesus the Risen King (Gospels)*

### WINTER 2020-21

#### Volume 10: The Mission Begins

*The Holy Spirit Comes (Acts; Epistles)*

*Fundamentals of the Faith (Acts; Epistles)*




*New Life in Christ (Acts; Epistles)*

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