Luke 17:11-19

Review…

- **Luke 16:19-31 - The rich man and Lazarus…**
  - The rich man had it all - for a couple of years - Lazarus had it all for Eternity!
  - If you were to choose whom to follow - the obvious choice is Lazarus!
  - Money cannot save you - it is only the Word of God that brings eternal life!
- **Luke 17:1-10 - Teaching on forgiveness…**
  - 1st - Do not tempt God's kids to sin - you will have to answer to the Lord!
  - 2nd - If someone sins against you - you must confront them...
    - Following the 4 steps outlines in Matthew 18 - alone / 2 or 3 / church / unbeliever...
    - To restore the relationship / to keep the church pure / to teach consequences...
  - 3rd - If someone sins against you - you must forgive them...
    - Jesus told his disciples to forgive 7 times in one day - Peter questioned - just 7 times...
    - Jesus - Matthew 18 - went on to say you forgive till there is no more sin~
  - 4th - The power to be able to forgive - the disciples asked for more faith...
    - With the faith of a mustard seed you can uproot a sycamine tree - plant it in the ocean...
    - Un-forgiveness plants roots of bitterness that bring death...
    - Only Jesus pull it out our hearts by the root and cast it into the sea of forgetfulness!
  - 5th - Forgiveness is not an option - the required work of the servant...
    - We must confront - and we must forgive - it is what Jesus requires of us...
    - As He has forgiven us so much - how could we not forgive others!

Giving thanks to God… (*3 thigns*)

- **1st - Going around Samaria… vs. 11**
  - Jesus was heading for the last time to Jerusalem...
    - Repeatedly Jesus had told His disciples - **John 7:6** - "My time has not yet come..."
    - Now finally the time had come - Jesus was ready to fulfill His purpose for coming...
    - He had spent 2 ½ years teaching the multitudes - preparing His disciples...
    - But it was time for Him to go and pay the price for sin - open the way to heaven!
    - Jesus' focus was not on the coming suffering - but on being 'received up' - **Luke 9:51**
    - In the same way we know there are challenged that lie before us in life - hard times...
    - If we insist on focusing on the challenges - we will quickly become discouraged...
    - Instead let us follow the example Jesus gave to us - look up to the reward...
    - * **Hebrews 12:2** - "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross..."
    - The trials only last for a moment - the reward God has prepared for us is eternal!
  - As Jesus headed towards Jerusalem He passed through Samaria and Galilee…
    - The 'Feast of Passover' was close - all Jews 20 years or older were required to attend...
      - Jesus was moving east from the Sea of Galilee toward the Jordan River...
      - His plan was to join the Caravans of people making the pilgrimage to Jerusalem...

- They came down the Jordan because they could not pass through Samaria...
- After the reign of Solomon - Israel divided into two nations - Northern & Southern...
  - The Northern Kingdom became know as Samaria - named after its capitol city...
  - The Northern Kingdom was later conquered by Assyria in 722 B.C - **II Kings 17:23**
  - The Assyrians took the Israelites and scattered them to other conquered countries...
  - Then took captives from other countries and placed them in Israel...
  - Assyria allowed some of the Israelites to return to teach the people about God...
  - This mixed people/religion - became the 'Samaritans' of the New Testament...
- The Samaritans did not allow the Jews to pass through on their way to Jerusalem...
  - Samaritans believed God had to be worshiped at Mt. Gerizim in Samaria - **John 4:20**
  - The mountain where the blessing of God were read - **Deuteronomy 11:29**
  - When Israel came into the Promised Land they were to announce the Word of God...
  - ½ of Israel were to stand on Mt. Gerizim and proclaim the blessing to Israel...
  - ½ of Israel were to stand on Mt. Ebal and proclaim the curses to Israel...
  - They thought because they were on the 'mountain of blessing' - they'd be blessed!
  - Often we assume we are blessed because of where we are...
  - We pray in a church building - because we assume God hears us better there...
  - But being blessed by God has nothing to do with our location...
  - God blesses us because we listen to and obey the Word of God!
- The Jews taught (*in accordance to the Law*) - God was to be worshiped in Jerusalem...
  - Because of their different religious beliefs - Jews and Samaritans hated each other...
  - God is not concerned about 'where' we worship - but that we worship Him!
  - *** John 4:23** - "The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."
  - I am always amazed at the 'little' differences churches choose to divide over...
  - What day to gather to worship / the name on the sign over the church...
  - We may have different buildings we meet in - but we all worship the same Lord!
  - God is not concerned about our differences - He desires a relationship with us...

- **2ND - CALLING OUT TO JESUS... VS. 12-14**
  - Jesus and the disciples entered a village - and ten lepers met Jesus...
    - Leprosy is a disease that attacks the body's nervous system so you can't feel...
      - It is still prevalent in many developing nations today - called Hansen's disease.
      - It can be very dangerous because you don't know if you harm yourself…
      - Touch a hot stove - cut yourself on a blade - you would not have known!
    - The ten men stood far away…
      - If you were diagnosed with leprosy you would be cut off from the community...
      - You were not even allowed to attend church services...
      - If anyone even walked close to you - you had to cry out 'unclean!'
      - Because no one could touch you or they would also become unclean - infected…
    - Symbolically the Bible uses leprosy to refer to sin…
      - Just like leprosy - sin takes away your sensitivity - to what is right and wrong...
      - The first time you commit a sin (*stealing*) it is the hardest – you feel it was wrong...

- It gets easier and easier each time though - you stop feeling the guilt...
- Eventually you lose all feeling of conviction or remorse…
- The repeated sin causes you to be cut off and isolated from God – unclean!
- And your leprosy/sin can also spread VERY quickly - from one person to another...
- We infect others- by our example - our encouragement to do the wrong things!

o The men cried out to Jesus - 'Master have mercy on us'...
  - Jesus told the men to go and show themselves to the priest...
    - The curse of leprosy is being cut off from fellowship - with others / and with God!
    - If you were 'unclean' - the temple/priest was the only place to go for the cure...
    - The church is not for saints - it is a hospital for sinners...
    - It is there we can learn about Jesus - find the cure for our sin!
    - The only people who don't belong in church - are perfect ones - people with no sin...
  - There was no medical cure for Leprosy in Bible times...
    - But God provided an answer where man had none - **Leviticus 14:19**...
      - The leper took two birds / cedar-wood / scarlet cloth / and hyssop as a sacrifice...
      - One bird was sacrificed so that the other bird could be set free…
    - The sacrifice presented was a picture of Jesus - Jesus is the cure for sin!
      - The cedar wood – was a picture of the cross of Jesus Christ...
      - Scarlet cloth - was a picture of our sin that has made us unclean…
      - **Isaiah 1:18** – "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..."
      - Hyssop was the cleaning detergent of the day - it was soap!
      - **Palms 51:7** – "Purge me with hyssop, and I will be clean..."
      - Jesus died on the cross in our place so that we might be set free...
      - He took our sins (*that were scarlet*) & scrubbed us (*with hyssop*) so we are clean!

o While they were still on their way to the temple - the lepers were cleansed!
  - All the men had to do was obey the Word of God - and they were clean!
    - The only thing that can make us clean - obeying the Word of God...
      - All of us are sinners - there are no exceptions - **Romans 3:23**...
      - And there is only one penalty for sin - eternal death/hell - **Romans 6:23**...
      - But God loves us so much - **John 3:16** - He came and paid our debt for us...
      - God came as a man – and lived a perfect sinless life - **John 1:1,14**...
      - Jesus Christ – the only perfect man – paid the price for our sin on the cross...
      - **II Corinthians 5:21** – "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."
    - All God requires of us is to believe - and we will be saved - **Romans 10:9-10**...
      - The simple Gospel message – there is nothing you have to do – just believe…
      - We do not have to do anything to earn it – we just receive the free gift from God…
      - It couldn't be simpler – more obvious – just believe and confess Jesus!
      - God did not make salvation hard – He wants everyone to be saved – **II Peter 3:9**
      - But at the same time – it is your choice – clean or unclean / heaven of hell…
      - God doesn't make you go to heaven – just provides the way for those who believe

- **3RD - THE ONE WHO RETURNED... VS. 15-19**

- When one of them saw he was healed - he came running back...
  - With a loud voice he began shouting - praising God!
    - This man had been given new life - he had been healed...
    - And he wanted the whole world to hear about it - he was going to praise God!
    - We have been saved from eternal death/hell - and often say nothing...
    - When we come together in worship - do we sing at the top of our lungs...
    - Or are we more concerned about what the person next to us might think...
    - Jesus died for our sin - we have been cleansed - shout out for joy!
  - He fell down on his face at Jesus' feet - and gave thanks...
    - When was the last time we thanked Jesus for saving us - dying for our sins...
    - So often in life - we forget to be thankful for all God has done for us - given to us...
    - We think about all we don't have - we think we still need - but really just 'want'...
    - If it was a need God would provide - **Luke 12:31** - if we don't have it - don't need it!
    - We overlook the simple things - food / clothing / family / a home / our health...
    - We are like kids who rarely are thankful for what they have - food/clothing/shelter
    - But God calls us to be thankful for all things - for all God has done for us - every day!
    - Looking at what He has giving us - not what we think we still need...
  - He was a Samaritan...
    - The suggestion is the other 9 lepers were all Jews - he was the only foreigner..
      - All the Jews would have been welcomed into the Temple - but not the Samaritan...
      - The temple in Jerusalem had an outer barrier with signs warning non-Jews...
      - 'Let no foreigner (*same word*) enter the... enclosure surrounding the sanctuary'
      - The 'penalty' for a non-Jew coming into the temple courtyard was death!
    - The other men thought their religion was enough to save them...
      - They thought the power was in the Temple - rather than the God of the Temple!
      - The only one who gave thanks - was the one who was 'not religious'!
      - There are a lot of people today who trust in their religion to save them...
      - They think because they belong to a denomination - attend church - they are OK...
      - Religion - faith in rules and traditions - has no power to save us from hell...
      - Religion is only men's vain imperfect attempt to reach up to a perfect God...
      - It is only when a God reaches down to fallen men there is hope...
- Jesus asked him - where are the other nine...
  - Only the foreigner was willing to return and give glory to God...
    - The other 9 men got what they were looking for - they had been healed...
    - Only concerned about the their physical needs - they walked away from Jesus...
    - Many people run to God in their 'hour of need' - they pray / cry out for help...
    - God if you get me through this / if you heal me / if you provide...
    - I will dedicate me life to you - I will go to church every Sunday - read every day!
    - But the moment the need passes - they forget all about God...
    - They go right back to their old lives - old ways!
  - Go your way - your faith has saved you (*Perfect/Indicative*)...
    - Because this man was willing to go back to Jesus - not only was he healed...
    - He had been forgiven of all of his sins - past / present / and future!

- Jesus has healed us - He took away our leprosy - He has given us new life...
- Don not just look for what you can get from Jesus - then walk the other way...
- Don not get caught up in empty religion - instead run back to Jesus!
- Take the time to praise God today - take the time to give thanks to the Lord!